

NG KONG (APP) — It's going to get better in Hong Kong after 1997, the British expert said to China a localologist was quoted as saying yesterday there will be a change in social attitudes for the region's Dr. Sun Yat-sen, quoted as saying it has a very long way to go.

The U.N. commission in charge of Baghdad's disarmament, led by Rolf Ekeus, must certify that Iraq has complied with U.N. requirements on its weapons programmes before the international sanctions can be dropped.

Mr. Ekeus, who just returned from a trip to Baghdad, also said the Iraqis disclosed that they had produced more bacteriological agents than they had previously acknowledged.

They also had a comprehensive programme to produce and deploy 200 biological warheads that could be delivered by long-range missiles and aircraft, he said.

The Security Council was next due to review the sanctions on Baghdad about Sept. 9, but no change was expected at that time, according to Western diplomat.

Ms. Albright said Mr. Ekeus told the council Iraq had produced and deployed some 200 fully-capable biological warheads for delivery by air and long-range missiles but backed off shortly before the Gulf war because of a warning by the United States.

For a superstitious number 333-333 was a ghost house, one of a family that in a car crash she now was inhabited by phantoms. No one knows how the number 333, but much is known about — and tried to get a lottery ticket — went, call the number from 2:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. answers, hang up, raise your life will rise.

But if a woman picks up the phone, our question. Ms. Albright runs a motor shop in suburban Patham, filled by the calls of the daily news. "Callers like, 'What's the matter?'" or "Whom do you want?"

Meanwhile, U.S. troops tested tanks at their desert camp in Kuwait on Friday while ships began sailing up the Gulf with material for 16,500 Marines amid moves to deter any possible threat from Iraq.

## Ex-militants set up party in Gaza

GAZA (R) — Former members of the militant Islamic Jihad organisation in Gaza on Friday launched a new Palestinian political party which favours "preserving stability in the self-governed areas," founders said. The Palestinian Islamic Front (PIF) is the second Islamic group to be set up in self-governed Gaza in two weeks with the blessing of the Palestinian self-governed authority. PIF founders dodged questions on whether they recognise Israel and on their overall objective. But they said they would participate in all bodies of the Palestinian Authority. "Tighten the ranks, maintain stability in the borders of the Palestinian Authority, encourage dialogue between the active forces to reach common denominators," said founder Ayesh Abdul Hamid when asked about the objectives of his group. He said the 1993 agreement which launched Palestinian self-governance in Gaza and Jericho "did not restore rights to their (Palestinian) owners and did not lift injustice (from the Palestinian people)." Earlier this month, former activists of Hamas, which also violently opposes the peace agreement, set up a political party with funding from the Palestinian Authority.

Volume 19 Number 6003

AMMAN SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1995, RABI' AWAL 29, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

# King's speech signalled a change but not 'total shift'

Jordan will remain a window on Iraq and Iraqi people

## Albright: No early lifting of sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council is far from lifting sanctions on Iraq despite Baghdad's latest disclosures on its secret weapons programmes including a plan to produce a nuclear weapon by April 1991, the U.S. ambassador said Friday.

Iraq launched a crash programme to deploy a nuclear device before the Gulf war and their target date was April 1991, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said after an oral report to the council by the head of the U.N. commission on Iraqi disarmament.

She said Iraq's latest revelations said more about its low credibility and the threat it still poses than about the chance for an end to sanctions.

"It is important to tell the truth, because once you begin fabricating lies, it is very hard to remember what you lied about, and you create new lies and you lose all your credibility," she said. "For Iraq to regain its credibility, it has a very long long way to go."

The U.N. commission in charge of Baghdad's disarmament, led by Rolf Ekeus, must certify that Iraq has complied with U.N. requirements on its weapons programmes before the international sanctions can be dropped.

Mr. Ekeus, who just returned from a trip to Baghdad, also said the Iraqis disclosed that they had produced more bacteriological agents than they had previously acknowledged.

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Ms. Albright said Mr. Ekeus told the council Iraq had produced and deployed some 200 fully-capable biological warheads for delivery by air and long-range missiles but backed off shortly before the Gulf war because of a warning by the United States.

Following the briefing, Ms. Albright said the United States has enough support within the Security Council to block any attempt to eliminate the punitive measures. The United States also can veto any council action.

"We just received a chilling briefing," Ms. Albright said. "These latest disclosures from Baghdad say much more about the credibility of the Iraqi government and the threat it still poses than they do about the possibility of lifting sanctions any time soon."

Meanwhile, U.S. troops tested tanks at their desert camp in Kuwait on Friday while ships began sailing up the Gulf with material for 16,500 Marines amid moves to deter any possible threat from Iraq.

By Nermene Murad  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein's address to the nation on Wednesday did signal a shift in Jordanian policy towards Iraq, but it was not the "total shift" under which Jordan was expected to take an active part in efforts to topple the Iraqi regime, Jordanian politicians and observers say.

"Our relationship with Iraq has not changed," an official government source told the Jordan Times yesterday in commenting on the King's speech. "But that does not mean that we are not hoping for an improvement in the situation in Iraq," the source said. "Jordan will not close any door in pursuit of its major policy objective, that of alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people through lifting the sanctions regime."

"While it is true that the world has been reminded of the fact that Jordan is an open window on Iraq and on the Iraqi people," the Crown Prince said.

"As far as official relations are concerned, obviously these are maintained," he added. "Despite the difficulties and the respective embarrassment, we noticed that His Majesty's statement

of yesterday was relayed in full by the Iraqi media." The Crown Prince's statement, coupled with official government assurances that Jordan would not pursue active measures against the Iraqi regime, strongly indicate that a final break between Jordan and Iraq has not happened, as many Western and Arab politicians and observers actually believe.

"This in no way amounts to a call for the toppling of the Iraqi regime," the government source said.

Observers agree that the King's speech did not indicate a "practical shift" in the Kingdom's handling of its day-to-day relations with Iraq even though it contained what some of them described as "until now suppressed criticism of the Iraqi regime."

Ibrahim Izzeddin, a former minister of information and of state, says that while there was a "shift" in Jordan's policy vis-a-vis Iraq, "I do not think it will be translated into specific steps to be taken regarding daily relations between Iraq and Jordan."

"This rather unique position is further demonstrated

(Continued on page 7)

## Pelletreau trip aimed at supporting Jordan, not anti-Saddam bid -- U.S.

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The State Department acting spokesman, John Dinger, Thursday emphasised that a recent trip to the Middle East by two senior U.S. officials sought enhanced support for Jordan, not the overthrow of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

They found all their contacts "extremely useful and encouraging," and their meetings in the region revealed a remarkable degree of consensus on the potential significance of Hussein Kamel's defection and on other recent signs of turmoil and internal strain in Iraq.

The article asserted that "the diplomatic mission has failed" in an effort to weaken or topple the Iraqi government in the wake of the defections to Jordan of two senior Iraqi military officials — both sons-in-law of Saddam Hussein.

"In each of their stops, Mr. Pelletreau and Mr. Parrish found agreement on the root causes of the turmoil inside of Iraq and on the responsibility of the Saddam Hussein regime for the continuing suffer-

ing of Iraq's people," he said.

The acting spokesman declined to provide details of the discussions conducted by Mr. Pelletreau and Mr. Parrish, but he did say that "we are convinced that recent events have created a basis for reconciliation and closer cooperation among key U.S. partners in the region which did not exist a few weeks ago."

On their trip, the two officials met with senior government leaders in Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and then made a brief stop in Jordan again before returning to Washington.

"The recent meetings and the parties' public statements make us believe we will see more rapprochement between these and other countries in the period ahead," Mr. Dinger said. "We're entirely satisfied with the results of this trip. We're certain we will be able to work effectively with our friends in the region as a result of it. This is

(Continued on page 7)

## Baghdad says Hussein Kamel urged invasion of Kuwait and S. Arabia

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Iraqi government on Thursday dismissed accusations that it had planned to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and claimed that Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, the Iraqi defector who made the charges, was lone in making his claims.

The King clarified that he had heard from Gen. Hassan that the Iraqi leader had contemplated plans to reinvade Kuwait as well as Saudi Arabia. It is enough to say that the mere thought of such action and the probability of its execution constitutes a horrible catastrophe for the Arab Nation....," said the King.

In "This is the Truth" programme broadcast by Iraqi Television, a text of which was released by the Iraqi embassy in Amman, the television announcer broadcast a recording which he described as the voice of Gen. Hassan addressing the

border with Iraq. The forces were later withdrawn when the U.S. rushed military forces to the region.

In his 45-minute speech to the nation on Wednesday, the King sharply criticised the Iraqi government, but he did not mention President Saddam by name.

The King clarified that he had heard from Gen. Hassan that the Iraqi leader had contemplated plans to reinvade Kuwait as well as Saudi Arabia. It is enough to say that the mere thought of such action and the probability of its execution constitutes a horrible catastrophe for the Arab Nation....," said the King.

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(Continued on page 7)

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation



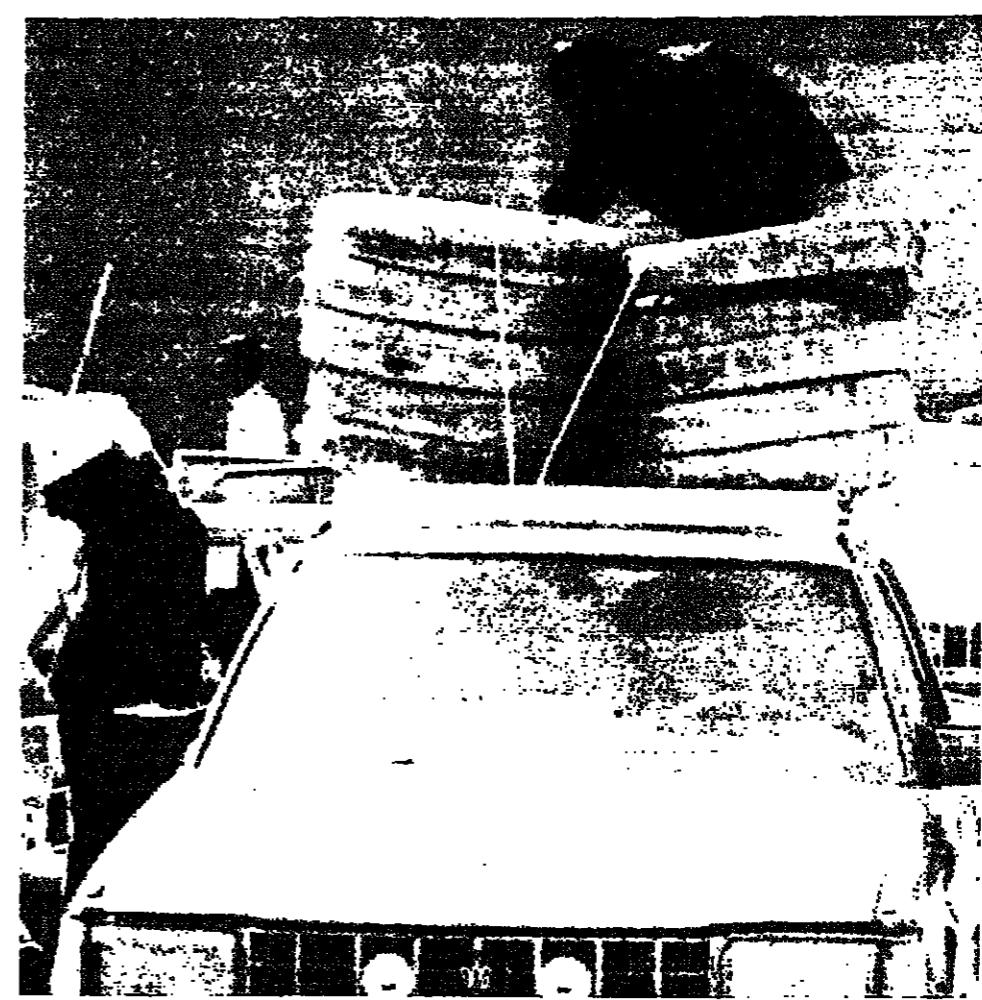
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An Iraqi taxi driver loads new tyres on the top of his car in a parking lot for Iraqi taxis in Amman. Iraqi drivers buy Jordanian products to resell them in Iraq. (AFP photo)

## Jordanians split over economic impact of possible strain in ties

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday.

However, there was agreement that any freeze in trade and economic links between Jordan and Iraq could seriously affect Jordan. Any move along such a line from Iraq could come only if Baghdad is assured that it has an alternative outlet to the outside world, but that does not seem an immediate possibility, given the closure of Iraq's

(Continued on page 7)

## Parliamentarians view Iraq developments on party lines

By Sa'da Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanians appeared divided on Friday over the impact of a possible strain in Jordanian-Iraqi ties on economic and trade links between the two neighbours, while the government said it did not foresee any sweeping negative effect on the relationship after the critical speech delivered by His

borders for regular flow of traffic and goods along all its other borders.

The argument is not limited to economic analysts, millionaire businessmen and officials. Almost everyone, from a small grocer to large supermarket owners, are also worried over the possible consequences on the Jordanian economy of a suspension

(Continued on page 7)

## Kuwaiti deputies welcome King's speech

Tapes are fake — Iraqi defector

FORMER IRAQI Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan said Friday that tapes broadcast in Iraq in which he appeared to urge Saddam Hussein to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were a fake.

He told AFP by telephone that Iraq had "fabricated" and dubbed together his words to discredit him after his defection.

A tape recording supposedly dating from October when he allegedly denounced U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus as a "liar" was a "montage of comments made during a meeting of leaders on the attitude towards Ekeus," he said.

"I said that we shouldn't turn the issue into a problem between Iraq and Ekeus by treating him as a liar and a bad man and by asking if he were French, English or American. My words have been dubbed together."

(Continued on page 7)

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## More surprises seen in Iraq nuclear data

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq's new disclosures about its weapons of mass destruction are likely to reveal nuclear arms data beyond findings of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which closed most of its files a year ago.

According to diplomats and other sources, Iraq's crash programme to build a bomb was more advanced than suspected. Some related equipment may still be missing and some scientists may have continued theoretical work well after the 1991 Gulf war, they said.

The Vienna-based IAEA has issued frequent positive reports, saying it had a complete overview of the programme.

Iraq had claimed all pertinent documents and materials on weapons of mass destruction had been destroyed as ordered by the U.N. Security Council after the 1991 Gulf war.

But on Sunday, it gave U.N. disarmament experts more than 147 boxes of documents on paper, video tapes, computer disks and microfiche that are now sealed in a U.N.-protected centre in Baghdad, where arms officials expect to analyse the data.

The U.N. Special Commission, headed by Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus and responsible for ridding Iraq of its chemical, biological and long-range ballistic missiles, has revealed some crucial information on its new findings.

However, the IAEA, in charge of destroying nuclear weapons, was briefed separately by Iraqi officials and has so far been silent.

Sources familiar with the disclosures said Iraq had a far more active nuclear weapons programme than originally thought in its aim to produce its first atomic bomb, believed to be less than a year away before the Gulf war began.

## Baghdad must fulfil U.N. demands -- U.S.

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department acting spokesman John Dinger said Thursday that Iraq must demonstrate its peaceful intentions by complying with all of its obligations under the various resolutions before there can be any discussion of modifying the economic sanctions regime imposed by the U.N. "If and when Iraq chooses to comply fully with its obligations, the U.S. government will assess the situation accordingly," Mr. Dinger said. "The purpose of the U.N. Security Council's resolutions is that Iraq should never again pose a threat to peace and stability in the region."

"Iraq must demonstrate its peaceful intentions by complying with all its obligations under the various Gulf war resolutions before there can be discussion of any modification to the sanctions regime," he said.

Reports by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. special commission (UNSCOM), on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programme "are one of a number of factors the council will take into account when examining the issue of Iraqi compliance," the acting spokesman said.

"Iraq's other obligations include a full accounting for those killed or missing as a result of the invasion of

Iraq, they said, indicated it had more centrifuge equipment, used to enrich uranium for a bomb, than admitted earlier. Some of the equipment may not have been destroyed.

There was also evidence that Iraq continued theoretical work for designing bombs well after the 1991 war. While computer models are not explicitly prohibited by Security Council resolutions, their existence has to be reported.

In its Security Council report, the IAEA said it was "confident that the essential components of Iraq's past clandestine nuclear programme have been identified and have been destroyed, removed or rendered harmless, as appropriate."

Officials from the Special Commission were also astounded by the scope of Iraq's efforts to produce germ weapons and ballistic missiles, although Dr. Ekeus had previously reported his suspicions on biological agents and weapons to carry them.

"They claim all has been destroyed," said Charles Duerif, the commission's deputy chairman. "Our Task is to verify that. Some of it is buried in holes and we are going to dig up the holes and look for bits and pieces."

Dr. Ekeus and other officials said Iraq has now admitted:

— Germ or toxin-filled munitions, bombs and missiles ready for use during the war against Israel or Saudi Arabia or U.S.-led troops.

— Five different sites, rather than one, for producing biological agents, such as anthrax bacteria, botulinum toxin as well as another mycotoxin from a fungus, an ingredient in the "yellow rain" that Iraq used in the 1980s.

— A capability of producing its own engines for Scuds and other ballistic missiles.

## Arrests in Hebron

Israeli soldiers lead three blindfolded Palestinians held on suspicion of anti-Israeli activities, in Hebron. Israeli soldiers on Friday shot dead two Palestinians, who, the Israeli army said, were wanted activists of Hamas (see page 12) (AFP photo)

## Rabbani soldiers push back Taliban

KABUL (R) — The Afghan government said on Friday its forces had pushed the Taliban student militia's defensive lines almost 40 kilometres across the southwestern plains of Afghanistan.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's defence spokesman, known only as Dr. Abdullah, said pro-Rabbani fighters launched their attack on the Taliban's westernmost stronghold of Delaram last Wednesday.

"We are now shelling the town of Girishk in Helmand province. If we can capture Girishk, we will be well placed to launch an attack on the borders of Kandahar," he said.

Kandahar is the Taliban's headquarters and an attack on it would be a major blow to the student militia's morale, Western sources said.

Dr. Abdullah said Defence Ministry strategists were convinced that if they did target the southern city, former fighters still living in Kandahar would support the attack with an internal rebellion.

"Already the Taliban are demoralised," Dr. Abdullah said. "We have killed 50 of their fighters and captured about 100 along with 12 tanks, 12 Z-U anti-aircraft guns, and loads of light weapons."

He said 10 pro-Rabbani fighters were killed and 20 wounded by the Taliban.

There was no independent confirmation of the fighting.

Taliban sources confirmed losing some ground, but said the situation was not as desperate as stated by Dr. Abdullah.

Dr. Abdullah said pro-Rabbani fighters had also seized the initiative in another fight 30 kilometres east of Kabul.

Fighting was also going on with the oldest military rival, the Hezb-e-Islami faction of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, which had launched an offensive on positions around the strategically important town of Serobe, Dr. Abdullah said.

By late Thursday evening, pro-Rabbani forces were within four or five kilometres of the main Hezb-e-Islami bases and using artillery and tanks to shell the opposition fighters there, he added.

"We have also captured Tizin and Jaji, two villages around Serobe, so Hekmatyar can't resupply the base anymore," Dr. Abdullah said.

The United States is looking forward to receiving Dr. Ekeus' report to the Security Council, he said. "Given Iraq's track record, it will take time to determine whether Iraq is now providing complete disclosure of its weapons programmes. (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has a long way to go to convince the international community of his peaceful intentions," the acting spokesman declared.

Reports by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. special commission (UNSCOM), on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programme "are one of a number of factors the council will take into account when examining the issue of Iraqi compliance," the acting spokesman said.

"Iraq's other obligations include a full accounting for those killed or missing as a result of the invasion of



## Japanese troops to join Golan Height observers

TOKYO (R) — Japan will send troops to the Middle East for the first time in its history next year as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force in the Golan Heights, a Japanese Socialist Party (JSP) spokesman said on Friday.

Under a draft plan approved by the socialists on Friday, Japanese troops will take on a limited transport role in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

Japanese troops will not transport weapons or ammunition for troops of other countries, and will retain the right to withdraw at any time on orders from Tokyo rather than of UNDOF, the draft plan said.

Details of next February's dispatch will be formally announced at a cabinet meeting next Tuesday, he said.

The plan has been pushed by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), senior partners in Mr. Murayama's coalition government.

The Socialist Party had been blocking it on grounds that it could violate the country's controversial 1992 Peacekeeping Operations Act, which does not allow

of military contribution by contributing aid.

After the war, Japan sent a flotilla of minesweepers but this did not impress its allies, especially the United States.

As a result, the conservative LDP government at the time pushed through the controversial Peacekeeping Operations Act in 1992, overcoming strong pacifist opposition, especially from the socialists. The two are now in an unwieldy alliance under Mr. Murayama along with the smaller conservative Sakigake Party.

Under the 1947 constitution, Japan's armed forces, called the Self-Defence Forces, have been restricted to a purely defensive role. Hence Japan's hesitation in sending troops abroad under any pretext.

It would be Japan's fourth such contribution to U.N. peacekeeping and refugee aid programme since 1992, after Cambodia, Mozambique and Rwanda.

## Mastermind of blasts sought revenge for house demolition

By Said Ghazali  
The Associated Press

BALATA REFUGEE CAMP — Abdul Nasr Issa, accused of masterminding a ring of suicide bombers, is a hero to his sisters who say he was justified in getting revenge for the army's destruction of the family home. But Issa's father disagrees.

"Anyone who kills civilians is not a hero," said Attalah Issa, 61, who tried to locate his son and persuade him to abandon his commitment to Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement that has tried to wreck the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy plan.

In interviews Thursday, the divided family reflects the schisms within the Palestinian community about the attacks, which have claimed 90 lives and wounded hundreds while Israel and the PLO were negotiating peace.

"I don't condemn what my brother did," said Abdul Nasr's sister Tamman, 28, an English literature teacher. She said Israeli generals were treated as heroes for killing Palestinians "so we consider him a hero."

Samar Issa, 34, a housewife who like her younger sister wears the "mandil" headscarf of an observant

Muslim woman, said her brother's actions were an outgrowth of the way the Issa family and other Palestinians have been treated during Israel's 1997 occupation of the West Bank.

Until his disappearance, Abdul Nasr, 27, was the head of the 1,000-member Islamic bloc at Al Najah University in nearby Nablus where he studied Islamic law. He had been on the run from Israeli authorities since December and his father went after him, checking out rumours that he had fled to the PLO-run autonomous areas in the Gaza Strip and West Bank region of Jericho.

"I tried to reach him. I tried to make contact. I didn't want him to join Hamas, and I told him all the time to leave Hamas, but he didn't listen," said Attalah.

"I argued with him several times that this struggle is bigger than you, and he should think realistically."

His father, 61, owner of a tile factory, said he tried to reason with his son using his own experience as an activist for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He served nearly 10 years in jail until 1978, and the army also seized his car, banned him from travel abroad and sealed the family home for three years.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Manila to apologise to UAE for flag burning

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon said here Friday that he would apologise to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the burning of a UAE flag by an ex-cop-turned activist. Mr. Siazon, in an interview aired by private radio station DZRH, said that while the burning of flags was a common sign of protest in the Philippines, it was considered a serious insult in other countries. Mr. Siazon was apparently hoping to assuage any anger against the Philippines that might affect the verdict in the retrial of a 16-year-old Filipino maid who risks the death penalty for stabbing her employer to death in the Gulf state. The verdict in the retrial of Sarah Balabagan, who was sentenced to seven years in jail on June 24, for the murder of her employer, is scheduled for Saturday. Ms. Balabagan has said she killed her employer after he raped her. UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan cancelled the verdict and ordered a retrial. A lawyer for Ms. Balabagan was also quoted by DZRH as saying that the burning of the flag endangered his case. Abner Afuang, a former policeman who has taken to staging various public protests for different causes, set fire to the flags of five countries, including the UAE, last month, to protest against abuses of Filipinos working in those countries.

### S. Korea defence minister to visit Israel

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Defence Minister Lee Yang-ho was headed for Israel on Friday for talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on bilateral military cooperation. Mr. Lee and Mr. Rabin, who holds Israel's defence portfolio, were to discuss ways to improve defence industry cooperation and exchanges of military personnel and information. The Aug. 25-31 visit will be the first to Israel by a South Korean defence minister since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1962.

### Yemen holds 2 Swedish police officers

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Two Swedish police officers are being prevented from leaving the Yemeni capital of Sanaa after the authorities there confiscated their passports. The Swedish Foreign Ministry said late Thursday. The officers, a man and a woman, arrived in Sanaa on Aug. 14 as escorts to an Iraqi family of four who had been expelled from Sweden. The private TV 4 television station quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Stockholm had received no explanation from the Yemeni authorities for their action. "According to our information the expulsion of the Iraqi family took place in accordance with international regulations," spokesman Staffan Björck said, adding that Sanaa had also refused to accept the Iraqis, who had previously lived in Yemen. Mr. Björck said that a Swedish diplomat from the embassy in Riyadh, Leif Ringquist, had gone to Yemen to try to secure the restitution of the police officers' passports and the acceptance of the Iraqis. Meanwhile, the officers were being housed in the Swedish consulate in Sanaa, the spokesman said.

### U.S. ships enter Gulf with material for Marines

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Ships carrying enough tanks and other equipment for 16,500 U.S. Marines sailed up the Gulf on Friday to detect any possible threat from Iraq, a U.S. Navy spokesman in the region said. Three of the ships were in the south or central Gulf and the fourth was due to enter the waterway in the next two days after sailing from the Indian Ocean base at Diego Garcia, the spokesman told AFP by telephone. "Each ship has a little slice of everything. Jeeps, tanks, guns, food," he said. If there were a crisis such as Iraq threatening to invade Kuwait, the Marines would be flown in from the United States and "they'll meet up with their equipment on the beach," he said. The U.S. aircraft Independence was also en route to the Gulf from Japan and expected to enter the Gulf in September to replace the Abraham Lincoln, which has been ordered to stay put as a precaution.

### Germany expels two Iranian diplomats

NICOSIA (AFP) — Germany has expelled two Iranian diplomats from "spying." Iran's main armed opposition group, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, said Friday. "The German government has expelled two members of the Iranian embassy," the group said in a statement received by AFP in Nicosia without giving the date of the expulsions. The foreign ministry in Bonn contacted by AFP refused to make any comment, and in Tehran ministry officials could not be reached as Friday is a holiday in Iran. The Mujahedeen statement named Ali Osouli, based in Bonn, saying he "has received orders to leave the country for violating international diplomatic protocols." It charged that Mr. Osouli was "an agent of (Iran's) Ministry of Intelligence who worked... on the third floor of the regime's embassy in Bonn." "The other agent" ordered to leave is Seyed Jalal Abbasi, who worked in the regime's consulate in Frankfurt for two years and was in charge of spying against the members and supporters of the Iranian resistance," the statement said. Mr. Osouli has been the embassy's third secretary since November 1992, but the other diplomat was not on Bonn's diplomatic list.

### Turkish troops kill 15 Kurdish rebels

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish troops killed 15 Kurdish separatist rebels in clashes in the southeast Anatolia region of the country, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Friday. The operations took place in the province of Diyarbakir, capital of the Anatolia region populated mainly by Kurds, according to a communiqué from the police headquarters in Diyarbakir. The communiqué did not say when the fighting occurred, but the Turkish army carries out daily sweeps against the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in the region.

## JUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

## ARRIVALS

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:40 ..... Larnaca (CY)

07:28 ..... Amsterdam (NL)

08:30 ..... London, Damascus (SY)

08:35 ..... Antalya (TR)

09:00 ..... Paris (FR)

10:00 ..... Rome (IT)

11:00 ..... Ankara, Madrid (ES)

12:00 ..... Brussels, Amsterdam (NL)

12:45 ..... London (UK)

13:45 ..... Istanbul (TR)

14:00 ..... Geneva, Madrid (ES)

14:30 ..... Paris (FR)

15:00 ..... Rome (IT)

16:00 ..... Ankara, Madrid (ES)

17:00 ..... Istanbul (TR)

18:00 ..... London (UK)

19:00 ..... Paris (FR)

20:00 ..... Rome (IT)

21:00 ..... Ankara, Madrid (ES)

22:00 ..... Istanbul (TR)

23:00 ..... London (UK)

00:00 ..... Paris (FR)

01:00 ..... Rome (IT)

02:00 ..... Ankara, Madrid (ES)

# Home News

## BRIEF

### JAE for flag burning

Foreign Secretary Douglas H. Ford would apologize for the burning of a U.S. flag by a Jordanian activist, Mr. Shazan, who is stationed at the UAE embassy. He was considered a serious threat to the U.S. by the UAE, last month.

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Minister

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## Rwandan refugee repatriation from Zaire makes slow start

KIBUMBA CAMP, Zaire (R) — A U.N. voluntary repatriation operation to Rwanda got off to a slow start in Zaire Friday with only small numbers of refugees leaving for their homeland.

At Kibumba camp, with 200,000 residents the largest in the Goma region of eastern Zaire, only 87 Rwandan refugees — mostly women and children — boarded U.N. trucks on Friday morning.

"Everyone's waiting for everyone else to go. It's a slow start. People need security assurances," Ivan Sturm, a U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) repatriation officer, told Reuters.

Hundreds of young men stood by the main road and watched the 87 board three U.N. trucks and set off for the border.

The young men told journalists they would not return to Rwanda despite UNHCR Friday resuming voluntary repatriation which was suspended Saturday when Zaire started mass deportations.

Many of the estimated one million Rwandan Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire fear being killed on return in re-

prisal for last year's genocide in Rwanda of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

After expelling some 15,000 Rwandans and Burundians, Zaire signalled Thursday it was satisfied with a UNHCR offer to transform the deportations by the Zairean army into voluntary repatriations.

U.N. officials said they had the capacity to truck 5,000 people daily to Rwanda, where they would be put in transit camps for screening by Rwandan authorities, intent on catching any former troops or militiamen involved in the genocide.

"If we go back to Rwanda, all young men will be killed immediately," said Mousa Iziyura, a young refugee, at Kibumba.

Those who boarded the trucks said they wanted to go home because they understood they were not wanted in Zaire any more.

"I'm a clever man. I always listen to the radio. That is why I'm going back. I make my own decisions," said 28-year-old Jean-Baptiste Rwanika as he clambered aboard a truck with his few belongings.

"That which I fled is still

there in Rwanda," he said. Tens of thousands of Rwandan refugees returned from the mountains to camps in eastern Zaire Friday after Zairean troops stopped expulsions, U.N. officials said.

Toni Stadler, head of the U.N. refugee agency's office in Uvira south of Rwanda's northwestern border with Zaire, told Reuters by telephone about half of an estimated 100,000 refugees who fled this week had returned to nearby camps as of Friday.

In the Zairean border town of Bukavu, north of Uvira, U.N. refugee agency representative Patrick De Sousa said a U.N. voluntary repatriation programme for Rwandan refugees would start in his region Monday.

U.N. officials said they had expected a slow start to voluntary repatriation but stressed the key element had been Zaire's decision to suspend the forced expulsions.

There is a ferment among refugees for returning en masse.

We'd like to accelerate this process and use the momentum," he said by telephone.

He said refugees did not want to return in small groups. "They want to go back in groups of 2,000 to 3,000. I'd like to use the next three days to build up a group of 3,000 to be taken home," he added.

Kibumba camp leader Jean-Baptiste Sibomana estimated that about 50,000 people may go back but said he himself would not before refugee leaders struck a power-sharing agreement with the government in Kigali and a new national army was formed.

"That which I fled is still



Passers-by haul a truck-driver to safety from Seoul's Han River after he was swept away from the vehicle as torrential rains spawned by typhoon Janis sent the river pouring over

riverside drives. At least 37 people were killed or missing as torrential rains have unleashed landslides, derailed a train and cut roads and bridges (AFP photo).

## S. Korea hit by typhoon-spawned rains; 37 killed or missing

SEOUL (AFP) — At least 37 people were killed or missing as torrential rains spawned by typhoon Janis pounded South Korea Friday, unleashing landslides, derailing a train and cutting roads and bridges.

The seventh typhoon of this year threatens to trigger the worst floods in five years here when it hits central South Korea Saturday afternoon, Home Ministry officials said.

The highest casualties were inflicted near Yongju City, 130 kilometres southeast of Seoul, where five people were killed and 16 others missing after landslides swept away 24 houses, television reports said.

In Kongju City, 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Seoul, nine people were killed when another landslide buried two houses.

A train carrying 500 passengers derailed in Kwesan County, 100 kilometres (60 miles) southeast of Seoul, killing one person, injuring 160 and leaving eight reported missing, Yonhap Television News said.

The accident occurred

when a section of a bridge, weakened by a rain-swollen stream, caved in, sending eight cars of the 11-car train toppling off the track.

A 38-year-old railroad vendor was confirmed dead and eight others were seen falling into the stream.

About 300 rescue workers were rushed to the site but were hampered by the driving rains and the rushing stream.

The central and eastern parts of the country have been battered by pouring rains brought on by typhoon Janis since Wednesday, with some areas receiving more than 40 centimetres (12 inches) of rain in the past 24 hours.

Five railroad lines, including the main Seoul-Pusan artery, were paralysed and many sections of roads and bridges were washed away or submerged.

Flood warnings were replaced by flood alarms for low lying areas around the Han River flowing through this capital and the Han's tributaries, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate to higher land.

AFP reporters said river-

LONDON (AP) — A previously unknown recording by Elvis Presley is part of a trove of memorabilia — ranging from a white Rolls-Royce to dreams — to be auctioned in October. Bonhams auctioneers, which organised the sale with Butterfield and Butterfield of Los Angeles and San Francisco, said the recording was offered for sale by Dick Grob, formerly chief of security for the singer. Provisionally titled Let Me Make Believe Awhile, the recording is 78 rpm acetate that may have been made in Presley's home studio. The date has not been established. Bonhams estimated that the record will go for \$40,000 to \$60,000 in the sale, scheduled for Oct. 6-7 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The typhoon, with a central air pressure of 992 hectopascals and a wind speed of 23 metres per second at its centre, was described as relatively weak but was picking up speed as it moved north-west.

A 500-tonne barge on the Han broke loose from its mooring and hit the piers of Mapo Bridge, prompting police to bar traffic from the bridge for a while.

Heavy rain warnings were also issued for the central area of the country, including this capital and its surrounding Kyonggi Province, as weathermen predicted more rains of between 10 and 50 centimetres (four to 20 inches) until Sunday.

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Milk truck thief proves cream doesn't pay

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand police were confronted with a messy problem after a stolen milk truck collided with a baker's van in a scene reminiscent of slapstick comedy. Police said the truck was stolen as its driver was making a delivery about 3.30 a.m.. A 19-year-old man jumped into the truck and drove around the street corner, straight into the bread van. "There was milk, cream, cheese, yoghurt, bread and crates spread all over the place," said Inspector Albie Wilson of Wellington Police. The truck driver led police on a sedate chase along a nearby motorway before he was apprehended and arrested on a charge of unlawfully taking a vehicle.

Unknown Presley recording offered for sale

LONDON (AP) — A previously unknown recording by Elvis Presley is part of a trove of memorabilia — ranging from a white Rolls-Royce to dreams — to be auctioned in October. Bonhams auctioneers, which organised the sale with Butterfield and Butterfield of Los Angeles and San Francisco, said the recording was offered for sale by Dick Grob, formerly chief of security for the singer. Provisionally titled Let Me Make Believe Awhile, the recording is 78 rpm acetate that may have been made in Presley's home studio. The date has not been established. Bonhams estimated that the record will go for \$40,000 to \$60,000 in the sale, scheduled for Oct. 6-7 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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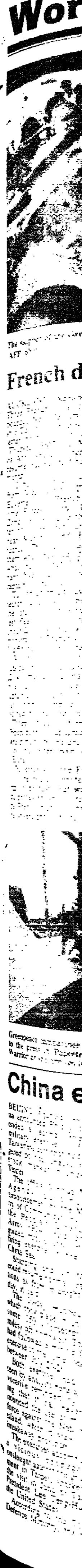
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# World News



The skipper of the Greenpeace ship, the Rainbow Warrior talks to the assembled press, as the ship arrives in Papeete (AFP photo)

Milk truck thief proves cream doesn't pay

WELLINGTON (R) Zealand police were confronted with a messy scene after a stolen milk van ended with a baker's comedy. Police said it was stolen as its driver was making a delivery about 10 a.m. A 19-year-old jumped into the driver's seat, drove around the corner, straight into the van. "There was milk, cheese, yoghurt, bread crates spread all over the place," said Inspector Wilson of Wellington. The truck driver led police on a sedate chase along the motorway before he was apprehended and given a charge of unlawfully driving a vehicle.

Unknown person recording offered for sale

LONDON (AP) — Previously unknown recordings by Elvis Presley are to be auctioned from a white Room of firearms — to be auctioned in October. Bonhams, which sold Butterfield of Los Angeles and San Francisco, recording was offered by Dick Grob, former security for the Presley estate. Provisionally titled "Make Believe Again," the recording is 78 rpm, that may have been Presley's home studio tape. It has not been kashed. Bonhams said that the record will \$40,000 to \$60,000.

sale. Scheduled for Oct. 12, the Hard Rock Casino in Las Vegas. The Times reported that the sleeve on the disc described: "To Do: Elvis Presley." One listed for the sale some of Presley's birth-control pills and jockey shorts worn during several final autographed photo booth. Presley died then his hands.

Jerry Garcia leaves most estate to wife

SAN FRANCISCO The Grateful Dead's guitarists Jerry Garcia left most of his estate, widow, while his four children received much balance according to papers. Dollar amount not specified in will, which was filed last week in Marin County Court, but the Dead one of the highest grossing touring acts in the rock 'n' roll. Since 1985 grossed \$350 million North American according to the website publication Pollstar, album sales steady, spectacular sellers, and a solid artwork on the disc. To his third wife, Koon, whom he married Valentine's Day last, Garcia wrote, "I give you my jewellery, clothing, hold furniture and furnishings, personal mobiles, books, pictures of art and other articles of a personal nature. She also receives one-third of my money while the other two-thirds are equally to Heather Katz, 32; Anabelle Garcia, 10, and Kristina S. Smaller amount Garcia's brother Christopher Sunshine, May 1985, the daughter of Carolyn Garcia.

Butcher palms off pet pooch as lamb chops

COLOMBO (AP) — Butcher who killed dog and palmed off its lamb chops is being held, police said Friday. The dog, Maranatha, was bludgeoned to death by a butcher palms off pet pooch as lamb chops

ouevres that ended Friday had involved air-to-air, ship-to-air and ship-to-ship attacks using tactical guided missiles and heavy naval artillery. During the July tests, China fired six missiles and claimed they all landed in their designated splash zone. Taiwan said only five missiles hit their target.

The official Xinhua News Agency, quoting an announcement by the Ministry of Communications, said the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had ended guided missile and artillery firing exercises in the East China Sea.

Shipping and air traffic could resume normal operations as from midnight Friday, it said.

The 10-day manoeuvres, which took place in an area some 150 kilometres (90 miles) off northwest Taiwan had followed a missile firing exercise in the same location between July 20-26.

Both exercises had been seen by analysts here as provocative reminders by Beijing that it has never renounced the use of military force against the Nationalist island, which it views as a breakaway province.

The exercises accompanied a vicious propaganda onslaught against the government in Taipei, sparked by the visit in June of Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui to the United States.

According to the Taiwan Defence Ministry, the man-

said.

He said it was inappropriate for the Tui, which "the government has sent... to represent the views of the New Zealanders," to "exchange niceies" with the French Navy without protesting France's nuclear testing programme.

"I assure you that I will always act as a sailor should you encounter difficulties and that I would not hesitate to lend you assistance if necessary," Adm. Euvverte said in the letter.

Lt. Peant told the New Zealand captain the French wanted to have regular contact with the Tui — twice a day, in the morning and the afternoon.

The French naval officers left the Tui, declining to comment to the media, after 10 minutes.

Commander Campbell said the visit was a normal courtesy call between two navies.

"We're operating in their backyard... it's just general courtesy," he said.

In New Zealand, Greenpeace spokesman Michael Szabo said in a statement that the government had missed a "golden opportunity" to deliver an official protest letter to the French Navy.

"The government had previously said the Tui would not be meeting with the French Navy or Greenpeace and this seemed to contradict that undertaking," Mr. Szabo said.

Decorated with bunches of banana leaves and a single banner "stop testing," the Rainbow Warrior was seen off earlier from Papeete by a handful of anti-nuclear activists onshore.

Veteran activist Jon Castle, who is returning to the Mururoa Atoll test site for a third time in 10 years, told Reuters shortly after setting sail from Tahiti that Greenpeace was committed to stopping the first of eight planned flights.

"We're going to try and stop the first one and we are going to go pretty well all out to stop it," Mr. Castle said as the ship rounded Tahiti's rugged west coast on its 1,200-kilometre (750 miles) voyage to Mururoa.

The Warrior was making steady headway in calm seas on Thursday and is due to take up a position off the atoll late Saturday and rendezvous with three other Greenpeace boats.

While the 65-metre three-masted ship will act as the flagship for 20 to 30 boats expected off Mururoa, campaign coordinator Stephanie Mills said it was not a Greenpeace flotilla.

"It has been a spontaneous happening in different countries, but as we did make an appeal for people to come out here, we will try and help coordinate the ships," Ms. Mills told Reuters.

Each afternoon yachts will be required to call in for the "peace flotilla schedule." "Yachts will simply report their position, weather and course," Ms. Mills said.

They were spotted by local residents and reported to the State Security Department in Fujian on Aug. 20, it said.

It said they confessed they had been sent by the Hong Kong-based Chinese-language magazine to take photographs and obtain information about military manoeuvres in the coastal areas of Fujian and visited Xiamen, Fuzhou and Dinghai cities.

They said they knew their acts were illegal and confessed they were guilty of illegally collecting military secrets, Xinhua said. They expressed remorse, it said.

The magazine is owned by garment and publishing magnate Jimmy Lai, who last year wrote a vitriolic article critical of Chinese Premier Li Peng.

Magazine officials said the pair set off late last week to Fuzhou, capital of Fujian province near the East China Sea where China's missile tests were being conducted, to report on popular reaction to the tests.

They said the magazine had not applied for approval for the trip from the local branch of the Xinhua News Agency, the de facto Chinese embassy in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong journalists are required to apply for Chinese government approval through Xinhua before going on reporting trips to China.

Harry Wu returns home

Meanwhile human rights activist Harry Wu, back at his California home after being expelled from China, said Thursday that Chinese officials told him while he was in jail that America could do nothing for him.

Mr. Wu earlier had an emotional reunion with his wife Ching Lee Wu at San

## Chechen rebels seize building; Russians reinforce Gudermes

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A group of Chechen rebels has seized a building in Gudermes, the second biggest town in the separatist region, Russia's top military commander in Chechnya was quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying Friday.

A similar act by another group of rebels in the town of Argun ended Monday in a bloody clash between the separatists and Russian troops.

Russian reports say up to 80 fighters were killed.

Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov, who commands Russian troops in Chechnya, told TASS the rebel unit was headed by Sultan Gelishhanov, former head of Chechen security service under the region's separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Mr. Gelishhanov said Mr. Dudayev had appointed him military commandant of Gudermes, a town of 60,000 to the east of Grozny.

The commander of the rebel group which occupied a building in Argun also said he was acting on behalf of Mr. Dudayev. The incident in Argun nearly derailed the shaky peace process in Chechnya.

Russia has sent troop reinforcements to Gudermes to head off possible violence as the tentative peace processor stumbles on, Interfax News Agency reported Friday.

Citing Russian army sources, it said Moscow wanted to avoid a clash similar to that in Argun.

The army did not say how many troops were being sent to Gudermes, Chechnya's second town, but they included a specialised "psychological warfare" unit.

The unit mainly composes

a radio team which has already begun broadcasting messages on loudspeakers urging Chechen fighters to surrender.

Chechen army chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov said Wednesday that the clash in Argun was an act of "provocation" stage-managed by Russian security forces with the complicity of certain Chechen factions.

Meanwhile a delegation from the Russian Security Council, the Kremlin's top national security authority, arrived in Grozny to draw up proposals to settle the Chechen conflict before its next meeting, probably Wednesday.

That meeting could also formally endorse Oleg Lobov's nomination as Russian President Boris Yeltsin's representative in Chechnya, although there has been no official confirmation of his appointment.

However Russian Deputy Vladimir Lysenko emerged from a meeting with Mr. Yeltsin Thursday to say he had been told Mr. Lobov had just been appointed by presidential decree.

Mr. Lobov "will clear things up and coordinate all activities in Chechnya," Interfax quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying after an Interior Ministry meeting.

The job is regarded as a key political position in the Caucasus but he will also be asked to keep his post as secretary of the influential Russian Security Council.

Meanwhile Mr. Dudayev has told his rebels they should not immediately hand in their weapons as agreed under a deal with Russia because some aspects of the accord could lead to tragedy, a local journalist said Friday.

The journalist told Reuters by telephone that the soundtrack of Mr. Dudayev's speech was broadcast on

radio holding in early 1996.

Mr. Lobov's appointment to such a key position is a significant move in Russian policies toward Chechnya and marks the culmination of weeks of manoeuvring in Mr. Yeltsin's entourage.

He is considered to have been a main force behind Russian troops marching into the republic on Dec. 11 to quell three-year-old independence drive there, sparking off eight months of bitter fighting.

His apparent main rival was Arakady Volsky who, as chief negotiator with the Russian team, signed a military accord and ceasefire with Chechen separatists to end the conflict.

However Mr. Volsky was considered more inclined to compromise and was criticised for being too soft.

Mr. Lobov, 57, has been a close ally of Mr. Yeltsin for 30 years, sharing top party roles in Sverdlovsk, the Urals, in the early 70s and helping to oversee the rebuilding of Armenia after the earthquake of December 1988.

He remained loyal to Mr. Yeltsin during the abortive coup of August 1991 and was named secretary to the Security Council, one of Russia's most secretive bodies, in 1993.

Meanwhile Mr. Dudayev has told his rebels they should not immediately hand in their weapons as agreed under a deal with Russia because some aspects of the accord could lead to tragedy, a local journalist said Friday.

The journalist told Reuters by telephone that the soundtrack of Mr. Dudayev's speech was broadcast on

Chechen television in the capital Grozny Thursday night, cutting into a programme shown by Russian Television. "Weapons should not be surrendered," Mr. Dudayev was quoted as saying.

"There are aspects to this agreement which could turn into a tragedy for the Chechen people," the journalist quoted Mr. Dudayev as saying. Mr. Dudayev was speaking in Chechen.

The rebel leader, now hiding in the southern mountains, said he had endorsed the military agreement to avoid being accused of opposing peace. The deal was signed on July 30 by top Chechen military commander Aslan Maskhadov.

Mr. Dudayev, in typically flamboyant remarks, said the war against Moscow could be continued outside Chechnya. He has made the same threat several times.

Fighters from Chechnya took four officers prisoner in an attack on Border Guards in the neighbouring Russian Republic of Dagestan Friday and a fierce gunbattle lasting several hours ensued, Interfax News Agency reported.

Citing sources in the area, Interfax said the Border Guards were deployed near Lake Gutib and the villages of Botlikh and Andi, a few kilometres from Chechnya's southeastern Vedeno district.

Border Guards were trying to free the kidnapped officers and destroy the Chechen group, Interfax said.

The Russian military command in Chechnya also said four Interior Ministry troops and four federal army troops were wounded in overnight attacks by Chechen fighters.

## U.K. eases N. Ireland prisoners' terms for peace

BELFAST (R) — Britain eased jail terms for hundreds of Northern Ireland guerrillas Friday in hopes of breaking the deadlock in a year-old diplomatic drive to reach a lasting settlement to the province's 25-year sectarian conflict.

Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew announced easier remission terms and a promise to review emergency laws and the role of the controversial

police force just days before the first anniversary of a landmark IRA guerrilla truce.

"This is certainly no amnesty — but it is both significant and real," Sir Patrick said in an address to university academics in Belfast.

He said prisoners jailed since 1989 would become eligible for remission after serving half of their sentence rather than the present two-thirds, a move which could free 100 Republican and loyalist convicts.

But it fell far short of the total amnesty sought by the

Another 300 would ultimately benefit from the change. It would, in very tangible terms, be of real benefit to the developing peace," Sir Patrick said.

Yet Sir Patrick signalled little real change to the government's demand that Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, get the guerrillas to make "substantial progress" towards handing over their weapons so as to win a seat at new all-party peace talks.

## China expels 2 Hong Kong journalists for spying

BEIJING (R) — China expelled two Hong Kong reporters Friday after charging the pair with military espionage, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Reporter Wat Wing-Yin and Photographer Tse Qu Yingyan of Hong Kong's outspoken Next magazine entered the coastal area of eastern Fujian province on Aug. 18 disguised as tourists to obtain military secrets "surprisingly," Xinhua said.

They were spotted by local residents and reported to the State Security Department in Fujian on Aug. 20, it said.

It said they confessed they had been sent by the Hong Kong-based Chinese-language magazine to take photographs and obtain information about military manoeuvres in the coastal areas of Fujian and visited Xiamen, Fuzhou and Dinghai cities.

They said they knew their acts were illegal and confessed they were guilty of illegally collecting military secrets, Xinhua said. They expressed remorse, it said.

Speaking to reporters for the first time since his expulsion from China hours after being sentenced to 15 years in prison for spying, Mr. Wu said he did not know so much had happened outside China while he was in jail.

During his two months in captivity, he said, "there was no music, no radio, no newspapers and sometimes the Chinese officers said: 'America can do nothing.'"

I think they can only destroy a man, but they cannot defeat him," the exhausted and frail-looking Wu said as he limped from a car to his two-storey home in a quiet street in Milpitas, 80 kilometres south of San Francisco.

"I remember the words of Ernest Hemingway: 'The man is made not for defeat,'" said Mr. Wu.

Mr. Wu said he was very proud he was American. "If I was not American I don't think I could be out," he said, adding that he appreciated everything people had done for him.

Harry Wu returns home

Meanwhile human rights activist Harry Wu, back at his California home after being expelled from China, said Thursday that Chinese officials told him while he was in jail that America could do nothing for him.

Speaking to reporters for the first time since his expulsion from China hours after being sentenced to 15 years in jail and

Francisco International Airport where he arrived on a commercial flight from Shanghai.

Mr. Wu said he planned to rest and take some medicine. "Because my back is very bad, I could not even stand in the court," said Mr. Wu, who suffers from severe back problems.

Mr. Wu, a naturalised American citizen who has a long record of human rights abuses in Chinese labour camps, was detained on June 19 when he entered China, aggravating already strained Sino-U.S. relations.

A court in the central Chinese city of Wuhan this week convicted Mr. Wu of the capital charge of espionage and of impersonating a police officer and sentenced him to 15 years in jail and

"Sino-American relations should improve," a diplomat said, suggesting that Mr. Wu's expulsion opened the way to letting Mrs. Clinton, head of the U.S. delegation to the conference — as well as a summit between her husband and Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

"It would be an indisputable victory for China if Mr. Clinton, who publicly called the country's leaders tyrants when he was running for office, put out the welcome mat for Jiang," the diplomat said.

Other sources suggested Mr. Wu's release indicated that China's professional diplomats were back in control, after ideologies, in an emotional backlash, had steered Sino-American policy onto a hardline course.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Shift, when right

**HIS MAJESTY** King Hussein's address to the nation Wednesday in which he strongly criticised the Iraqi leadership's handling of the crisis in Iraq does not necessarily signify an immediate Jordanian policy shift regarding its eastern neighbour and sister country. As early as the summer of 1992, King Hussein expressed his dismay at the Iraqi leadership's clinging to power in disregard for the plight of its people. In fact most Jordanians had long lost faith in the Iraqi leadership following its failure to save face, and the whole of Iraq, in the early days of the Gulf crisis by withdrawing its troops from Kuwait and afterwards when the Iraqi army was defeated and humiliated despite its leaders' stubbornness in standing up to the U.S.-led alliance.

It is true the Jordan's interest lies in trading with Iraq, which, on the other hand, serves as the Kingdom's strategic depth. Moreover, Jordan and the Jordanians love Iraq and the Iraqis as brothers, sisters, neighbours and friends. But Jordan has equal interest with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the rest of the Arab countries. Whether the contention that Iraq contemplated twice in the past eight months a repeat of the 1990 Kuwait debacle or not, we have to admit that there is genuine fear in Riyadh and Kuwait of the intentions of the Iraqi regime.

A similar fear also exists in Israel, which now is in peace with Jordan and which is only separated from the Jewish state by the Jordanian desert and the cities of Zarqa, Amman and Salt. The same Iraqi regime, as the King has pointed out, used Jordanian airspace to launch rocket attacks on Israel with total disregard to Jordan's security.

There is a near consensus in the Arab World and in the West that the U.N.-imposed sanctions against Iraq will not be totally lifted, unless and until Iraq complied fully with all U.N. resolutions including an account of Kuwaiti prisoners and the introduction of a politically system that respects human rights of all Iraqis.

Judging by the record of the Iraqi regime these will take ages to accomplish. Jordan cannot therefore wait for too long to achieve one of its major policy objectives, which is none other than to lift the sanctions and alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. If the King's warning to the Iraqi leadership to change strategy and tactics are not heeded promptly then a real shift in Jordan's policy will become inevitable. It is not right for any regime to survive while its people dies.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**ROLF EKEUS** came to Amman not to learn more about Iraqi military secrets or more secrets about Iraqi weapons but as part of his mission help the American intelligence services, charged Tareq Masarweh, a writer in Al Ra'i. Mr. Ekeus knew well that Hussein Kamel Hassan, who defected to Jordan on Aug. 8, could not have brought with him military secrets and scientific data which all the Iraqi scientists and engineers have compiled for years, but he came in order to complete his American-set mission by meeting with the defector for reasons known only to the American military and U.S. administration, said the writer. We heard Mr. Ekeus say that the Iraqis are unable to produce any mass destruction weapons and that all the Iraqi weapons of this kind have been destroyed and surveillance is in place in Iraq to monitor future developments in any weapons production, said the writer. Therefore, there could be no further justification for the sanctions, said the writer, who added that Mr. Ekeus and the Western powers are intent on removing the Iraqi scientists or luring them away from their country so that they would not be able to develop dangerous weapons in the future. This, he said, was his second mission in the area crying that to date 11,000 Iraqi medical specialists have emigrated to Australia and New Zealand in the past three years. The writer said that the next mission of Mr. Ekeus is to see that the Iraqi scientists are removed from the scene and until that happens the Iraqi people will have to continue to suffer under the crippling sanctions.

A WRITER in Al Dustour daily criticised officials at the Ministry of Education who have been claiming that all preparations were made for the start of the school year and for lessons to be given as of the first day in school. When the schools opened Tuesday no arrangements had been made for the start of teaching; there were shortages of books and stationery and the schools' administrations as well as the parents were busy trying to find the textbooks, the stationery and other requirements, said Fakhri Kawar. The writer, said that the parents and all Jordanians were happy to hear that ministry officials had made arrangements for the students to start learning right from the start of the school year but they were disappointed when they were faced with the realities on the ground. He said that the officials should have told the public the truth about the situation, especially as the schools are receiving 1.3 million students who need the services of 70,000 teachers, adding that this is not an easy task and that the ministry should have made ample preparations for the schools weeks before they were re-opened for the school year. On top of the difficulties at the schools, said the writer, many of the parents who come from limited-income groups could by no means afford to buy the books and stationery as they have not yet received their salaries, which come at the end of the month.

## Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

# King's speech signals no change in Jordan's policy towards Iraq

**HIS MAJESTY** the King's address to the nation on Wednesday on the recent developments in Iraq and Jordanian-Iraqi relations did not signal any shift in the Kingdom's policy towards its eastern neighbour. It was, in fact, a collective summary of what the King had been saying in public and private since the Gulf crisis. If one puts together what the King said during his trips to the U.S. and in discussions with Arab and foreign leaders since 1990, then we have a major part of the speech. The additional element in the address was the situation after the Aug. 8 defection of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, Iraq's former minister of industries and the brains behind the country's weapons programmes.

In basic terms, the King's words reflected the continued Jordanian concern to see an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people. Regardless of the shifts in the regional political map throughout history, human contacts and relations between Jordanians and Iraqis have always remained strong. As such, the suffering of the Iraqi people under the crippling sanctions, imposed when their country invaded Kuwait five years ago, pains us all.

Jordan never made any secret of its consistent effort to ease/relax the sanctions against Iraq so that Iraqi mothers could feed their children and the sick and elderly could be looked after. That was indeed Jordan's first priority and it remains so today. The next priority was to ensure that Iraq, a force to reckon with in political, economic and military terms in the Middle East, is brought back into the mainstream life in the region and given back the strong and effective role it has always played in regional politics.

Regardless of everything, it remains a solid fact on the ground that Iraq is among the giants of the Middle East. The human and material resources of that country could not be matched with any other player in the region. Side-stepping Iraq and working to bring about changes in the region to be compatible with the so-called new world order would never be effective simply because Iraq is very much part of the regional order and of the larger world

order. However, Jordan always put the human element first and politics second. For us in Jordan it was and is unbearable to see our brethren and sisters being denied their basic right, the right to live with their fundamental needs — foods, medicine, clothing, housing and education despite the vast resources their country holds.

Very unfortunately, the efforts to Jordan alone could not succeed, particularly that the big powers of the world had their priorities and agendas. Posing further obstacles to the Jordanian quest to help the people of Iraq was the obvious car-and-house game that Baghdad and the United Nations played in the context of eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

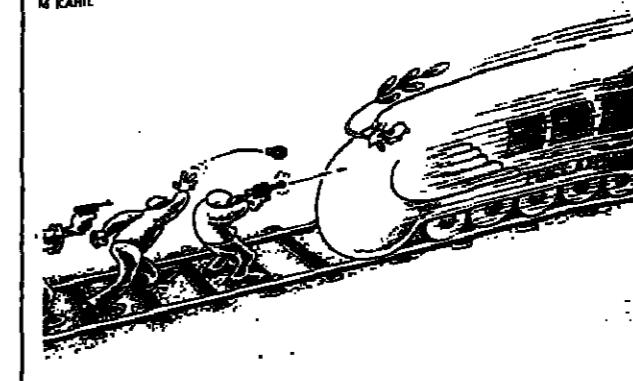
From a detached point of view, it would look as if the international community stood back and watched as the game was being played out, with a very biased party, the United States, assuming the role of referee. Needless to say, the outcome of the game had been predetermined and remains so today.

In such a scenario, Jordan could have hoped to achieve very little effective results in its campaign to end the misery of the people of Iraq. At the same time, what was going on within the borders of Iraq was not conducive to helping the campaign either.

In a nutshell, the King's address reflected the pain of the people of Jordan as they witness the people of Iraq suffer. The pain is intensified when we also see that the country's external policies, by design or coincidence, are contradictory to the very essence of the situation and the need to satisfy international norms and requisites.

Irqi television broadcast the King's speech in its entirety without comment except that Iraqi viewers were told to draw their conclusions from the Monarch's words. One definite motivation behind the Iraqi decision to broadcast the speech was clear. There could not have been any mistaking of the Jordanian concern and sympathy for the Iraqi people in their hour of suffering.

M KAHL



# Of cucumbers and government

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

IT HAS recently come to my attention that the World Health Organisation (WHO) is helping Jordan set up a corporation to supervise the domestic production of food and the use of insecticides and hormones.

Frankly, I was dismayed to read that another government corporation is being created. I had thought that we have finally begun to divest the government of its corporations, and now I bear that a new corporation is being set up. We claim that Jordan is a market economy but with all these corporations (which are basically regulatory bodies) sprouting up, one can legitimately question this claim. Those of us who blame large government for many of our economic woes and wish to see a smaller public sector are saddened by the news.

But wait! To the government's credit, WHO, a world-class and fully credible organisation, is supporting this measure and we do know of many rumours (emanating from scientific research) which state that cucumbers are not fit to eat unless peeled and tomatoes have to be soaked in chlorine or something of the kind to wash away the chemicals. My favourite story is about the ever-growing cucumbers: A husband who purchased tiny cucumbers from the local vegetable stand wakes up in the morning to popping sounds coming from the refrigerator and finds out that his tiny cucumbers have grown overnight into giants, so he screams to his wife "Honey, I blew up the cucumbers!" (this story may be a bit far-fetched but I have been hearing it repeatedly since I came back to Jordan a year ago).

Not a single person in Jordan wishes to see the embargo on Iraq continued and so Jordanian expects American pressure on the Kingdom to succeed, said Taher Al Adwan, a writer in Al Dustour. Jordan is not closing its borders with Iraq nor is it ending its trade with the Iraqi people despite America's pressure on it to help tighten the noose around the Iraqi leadership, said the writer. He said that Jordan did not succumb to Washington's pressures to Washington's pressures during the Gulf war when Jordan was under blockade and will not do that under the present circumstances.

The writer said that no one believes that Iraq, which is trying to obtain medicine and food for its people, is able or intends to launch military adventures against other Arab states. A writer in Al Dustour described the rapprochement between Jordan and Saudi Arabia as a step in the right direction of initiating reconciliation among the rest of the Arab countries. Mohammad Subeih said that the Gulf crisis has caused deep rifts among Arab states, stressing that the time is ripe now for basing inter-Arab relations on very solid basis characterised by mutual respect. The meetings between officials from Jordan and Saudi Arabia are bound to place the relations on their original and sound track once again for interests of the Arab Nation.

Commenting on the rise in the number of violations of Ministry of Supply regulations on the part of Jordanian merchants, a writer in Al Ra'i said that the increase in these violations reflect the fact that the ministry's measures are ineffective and do not serve their purpose. Nazih said that the merchants have been found to be manipulating prices and profiteering, selling food products with expired dates and flouting all the ministry's regulations, causing much suffering for the needy groups. The writer said that the merchants seem undeterred by the penalties imposed for such violations and do not see strict measures imposed by the government to stop malpractices.

Quality should be our first and foremost concern. One should never accept the statement "this is the best there is" because this statement is a cop out. Every product should have a label which carries information about its contents.

Labels should be clear and easily readable.

Consumers should ask for the names of the contents of a product in order to decide upon its suitability for consumption.

Producers should demand, obtain, and disclose full information about the contents of a product they are planning to use.

Laws must punish false advertisers and consumers need to know that they can sue people who cheat them.

What is the solution? The solution is and must always be smaller government. Since there is no perfect solution yet, for now we need a policing government to catch those who poison us in the name of profit or ignorance and we need less mess created by government.

## 1. High cost of production factors

Because of the rising cost of living, Jordanian labour refuses to work at low real agricultural wages, although such wages are necessary for Jordan's labour intensive agriculture production to be profitable.

King speed

Continued from page 1



**BUSINESS AS USUAL:** Iraqis go about their business as usual in the streets of Baghdad. The situation in the Iraqi capital was reportedly normal and there was little sign of tension raised by the recent developments (AFP photo)

## King speech signals shift

(Continued from page 1)

Contending that with Jordan's latest shift in attitude "the cards are all there to topple the regime in Baghdad," a Western diplomat was quoted by Reuters in Amman as saying "now it is just a question of progressing with caution and sensitivity to the local sentiment of all these countries concerned."

Other politicians and analysts interviewed by the Jordan Times say that while the King has sought to clarify the reasons behind Jordan's growing disappointment with the Iraqi regime, His Majesty's criticism was not new.

"There is no decisive shift especially if one recalls that the King's comments about Iraq over the past few years have not exactly been flattering to the Iraqi regime," a former senior official says. "What is new this time is the context and circumstances in which the King's disappointment and criticism have been expressed."

The former official was pointing to several public statements made by the King since the Gulf war ceasefire of 1991, including a recent open call for change he made in an interview with the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Aharanot*.

In the U.S. in 1992 the King, after meeting with Saudi ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, said that if he felt that his presence was becoming a burden to his people he would leave in what was interpreted to be a direct reference to President Saddam.

"With this in mind, one cannot say that the speech is a sudden shift," the former official says.

But what might be a shift, Jordanian politicians and analysts generally agree, is that the King, by making the speech now, appeared to be preparing the Jordanian people for a possible change of policy if the situation requires it in the future.

"This is perhaps one of the main objectives of the speech," a parliamentarian maintains. "Besides, the King also wanted to answer sceptics on his decision to grant asylum to (Lt. Gen. Hussein) Kamel and explain the thinking that had guided his decision."

The King, those who spoke to the Jordan Times point out, was trying to impress upon Jordanians that a new Middle East within a new world reality was emerging; and based on this, the Arabs, including the Iraqis, needed to understand more about the requirements of the new era.

In his speech, the King said that he wished for the Arab Nation "to wake up to the reality of a world that has changed to the extent that it witnessed the rise of a historical movement that brought to surface contradictions of all sorts at the same time."

"The King was giving the Jordanian people a demonstration of the new regional dynamics," a former minister says. "The King was basically saying that Jordan's actions today have to be assessed by the immediate results."

Western analysts have been describing what they see as the King's new shift in policy as the "missing element" for a strategy to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power."

**Pelletreau trip not anti-Iraq bid**

(Continued from page 1)

ment," he said. "Jordan is dependent on Iraq for petroleum and has been unable to find an economically feasible alternative."

"We're working with the Jordanian government on additional steps to combat sanctions evasion. We have a very active dialogue with the Jordanians on this issue," the acting spokesman said. "The Jordanian government has been very supportive of efforts to interdict goods destined for Iraq that pass through Aqaba, Jordan's only seaport."

"The Security Council has taken note of this arrangement."

## Mubarak offers asylum

(Continued from page 1)

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But despite the West's excitement over the Iraqi defectors and the King's speech further distancing himself from the Iraqi regime, Jordanian politicians say that Jordan has not yet received any iron-clad guarantees that would convince Jordan to make a final break with the Iraqi regime.

A Middle East shuttle by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, which included Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and two trips to Jordan, apparently failed to bring out the success story that Washington may have expected, politicians believe.

Iraq meanwhile welcomed Mr. Mubarak's cautious response to a speech by King Hussein in which he said Gen. Hassan had told him Baghdad had planned to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

He and other politicians in fact point out that despite the new elements that the King introduced in his speech, if he wanted to show the world that he intends to handle Iraq differently from before, there was a number of measures he could have taken to make that change evident.

Politicians say that Jordan has at least three cards in its hand that it could use to weaken the Iraqi regime and tighten the noose around it.

One of these cards is to physically close the borders between Jordan and Iraq and cut the flow of food and medicine to the Iraqi people, "which the King said he will not do," the former official who spoke to the Jordan Times says.

The second possibility would be to allow the Iraqi defectors to use Jordanian soil as a launching pad for much more damaging activity than media statements calling for the toppling of the Iraqi regime or discrediting it, "something which until now the King has not allowed," the former official adds.

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(Continued from page 1)

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"We have some concerns about lax border inspections and the operation of Iraqi front companies in Jordan," the acting spokesman acknowledged. He added that Jordan continues to import Iraqi oil, approximately 70,000 barrels per day at concessionary prices, for its domestic consumption.

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**King speech signals shift**

(Continued from page 1)

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"I asked King Hussein about Iraq and he told me that the situation was very difficult. I proposed that if President Saddam likes to come here I will accept him as a political refugee to solve the problem of the Iraqi people," Mr. Mubarak said.

"King Hussein told me that Saddam is not that sort of man," Mr. Mubarak said. "I am again offering a proposal that I have thought about before the defection of Hussein Kamel to Jordan... I am still on my words if this will solve the problem instead of having bloodbaths."

"One gets the feeling that the King is still waiting for something to happen, which is why he has left his options open," one former official maintains.

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One of these cards is to physically close the borders between Jordan and Iraq and cut the flow of food and medicine to the Iraqi people, "which the King said he will not do," the former official who spoke to the Jordan Times says.

The second possibility would be to allow the Iraqi defectors to use Jordanian soil as a launching pad for much more damaging activity than media statements calling for the toppling of the Iraqi regime or discrediting it, "something which until now the King has not allowed," the former official adds.

The King, those who spoke to the Jordan Times point out, was trying to impress upon Jordanians that a new Middle East within a new world reality was emerging; and based on this, the Arabs, including the Iraqis, needed to understand more about the requirements of the new era.

In his speech, the King said that he wished for the Arab Nation "to wake up to the reality of a world that has changed to the extent that it witnessed the rise of a historical movement that brought to surface contradictions of all sorts at the same time."

"The King was giving the Jordanian people a demonstration of the new regional dynamics," a former minister says. "The King was basically saying that Jordan's actions today have to be assessed by the immediate results."

Western analysts have been describing what they see as the King's new shift in policy as the "missing element" for a strategy to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power."

**Pelletreau trip not anti-Iraq bid**

(Continued from page 1)

going to be a continuing dialogue."

"We have some concerns about lax border inspections and the operation of Iraqi front companies in Jordan," the acting spokesman acknowledged. He added that Jordan continues to import Iraqi oil, approximately 70,000 barrels per day at concessionary prices, for its domestic consumption.

"The Security Council has taken note of this arrangement."

**King speech signals shift**

(Continued from page 1)

time he made the offer of asylum to President Saddam was to King Hussein one week before President Saddam's two sons-in-law defected to Jordan with their families on August 8. But he said he refused the offer.

"I asked King Hussein about Iraq and he told me that the situation was very difficult. I proposed that if President Saddam likes to come here I will accept him as a political refugee to solve the problem of the Iraqi people," Mr. Mubarak said.

"King Hussein told me that Saddam is not that sort of man," Mr. Mubarak said. "I am again offering a proposal that I have thought about before the defection of Hussein Kamel to Jordan... I am still on my words if this will solve the problem instead of having bloodbaths."

"One gets the feeling that the King is still waiting for something to happen, which is why he has left his options open," one former official maintains.

Mr. Mubarak's cautious response to a speech by King Hussein in which he said Gen. Hassan had told him Baghdad had planned to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

He and other politicians in fact point out that despite the new elements that the King introduced in his speech, if he wanted to show the world that he intends to handle Iraq differently from before, there was a number of measures he could have taken to make that change evident.

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## Economy

# World Bank: Gender inequality has economic costs

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Women in developing countries have made progress toward equality but still work longer hours for lower wages and receive less education than men, which hurts economic growth, the World Bank said Thursday.

The international lending institution called on governments to invest in women on grounds that gender inequality curbs productivity and stunts economic growth.

"Gender inequality hampers growth, and governments can no longer afford not to invest in women," the World Bank spokesman Klas Bergman told AFP.

World Bank studies show

Bank said in releasing two reports prepared for the U.N. Conference on Women, from Sept. 4-15 in Beijing.

The new president of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, will outline his vision of the gender issue in a speech at the U.N. conference, the bank said in a statement.

"We know that better educated women are more productive, have fewer and healthier children, and are more productive citizens," World Bank spokesman Klas Bergman told AFP.

Some major strides for women and girls in developing countries in recent decades, with 85 girls per 100 boys enrolled in primary school compared with 65 girls per 100 boys in 1960.

The female workforce has expanded at double the rate of the male workforce, with 30 per cent of women over the age of 15 formally employed in developing countries, the World Bank said.

But women still labour longer for lower wages in positions of lesser responsibility compared with their male counterparts, it said, while

boys still receive more education than girls.

Women are paid on average only 60 to 70 per cent of what their male counterparts earn, while 77 million girls and 52 million boys of primary school age are not in school, the bank said.

The World Bank issued two reports prepared for the U.N. conference, titled "Advancing Gender Equality" and "Toward Gender Equality," outlining the steps governments can take to promote gender equality and economic efficiency.

"It is critical that govern-

ments take the lead where markets fail to capture the full benefits to society of investments in women," the bank said.

Public spending with the highest social returns should give priority to investments with the greatest impact on women's human capital such as basic education, health care, and reproductive health, it said.

Legal reforms to ensure equal opportunity, economic measures to improve stability and incentive, public policies to invest in programmes with high social returns, and

# Lebanon's reserves reportedly fall by 40%

ign currency reserves rose by \$144 million in July.

An Nahar quoted the central bank's first deputy governor, Nasser Saidi, as saying the bank had been intervening in the money market, selling dollars to shore up the lira.

But the government of billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said the economy is sound.

In a special economic report, An Nahar compiled figures from the central bank that showed net foreign currency reserves had dropped to \$1.65 billion from \$2.73 billion in the first six months of this year, a 39.46 per cent decline.

Gross foreign exchange reserves also dropped 18 per cent, or \$716 million, to stand at the end of June at \$3.12 billion.

The figures were publicised after an opposition legislator claimed the government was about to go bankrupt.

Najah Wakim, an anti-corruption crusader and a virulent opponent of Mr. Hariri, claimed the central bank had all but depleted its foreign currency reserves to shore up the battered Lebanese lira.

But the state minister for finance, Fuad Santora, denied that and accused Mr. Wakim of "scaring people."

After a cabinet meeting Wednesday night, Information Minister Farid Mekary sought to calm concerns about a depreciation in the lira which could wipe out many people's savings.

"The cabinet listened to a report from the central bank government that the economic situation has improved in the previous month," Mr. Mekary told reporters. "The situation, thank God, is unchanged."

The central bank has reported earlier that gross fore-

## India's reforms expected to withstand opposition

NEW DELHI (AP) — As India heads into election season, its economic reform programme looks like it's in trouble. Even if economists like the plan, it could be a ballot box loser.

After decades of erecting barriers in pursuit of a Gandhian philosophy of self-reliance and spartan living, India opened its gates in 1991 to foreign investment and Western products.

Four years later, the middle class is thriving. But one-third of the country — 300 million people — still live below the poverty line, and their disenchantment with reform is becoming a political weapon.

The backlash has targeted a few select multinational companies, mainly Americans ones with high-profile projects:

A Hindu nationalist government in Maharashtra state recently scrapped what would have been India's largest foreign investment — a \$2.8 billion power project by the U.S.-based Enron Corp., arguing that Enron's profits would have been too

high.

In Orissa state, the \$643 million power plant contract of another American company, AES Power, is being challenged, even though the state is run by the same Congress Party that introduced India's free-market reforms four years ago.

Earlier this month, Coca-Cola and Pepsi were singled out at a demonstration against Western consumerism that took place in front of a statue of Mahatma "Mahatma" Gandhi, the revered independence leader who advocated Indian self-reliance.

In the southern Indian city of Bangalore, 100 policemen are guarding the nation's only Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) restaurant against farmers who threatened to attack it. In a parliament debate in New Delhi, KFC was derided as epitomising the junk-food culture that India does not need.

In newspapers across the country, editorials warn against a foreign invasion that could turn India into a banana republic. Some cite a

joint venture between the state-owned Doordarshan Television and Cable News Network as an example of India losing control.

While these companies have become hot political issues, hundreds of joint ventures and consumer products have been smoothly launched in the last four years.

In an independence day speech to the nation Tuesday, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao appeared on the defensive. "It is wrong to say that these (foreign) investments are promoting consumerism and big industrial houses," he said. Instead, his reforms had liberated the economy of its shackles.

Opposition politicians hope to tap the wellspring of national pride and anti-colonialism that Gandhi unleashed in the 1940s to drive out the British, and that prime minister Indira Gandhi used in the 1970s to expel companies such as Coca-Cola and IBM.

But few analysts believe India's economic reform are likely to be reversed, even if their author, Prime Minister

P.V. Narasimha Rao loses next year's general election.

"Thanks to the Enron decision, many foreign investors will be hesitant about India now," said E. Sridharan, an analyst at the respected Centre for Policy Research think-tank. "No one will bring in much money until after the election and the new government clearly indicates what its economic policies are."

Opposition parties also realise the economic reforms are popular with the estimated 100 million people with money to spend on consumer luxuries, Mr. Sridharan said, and that India can benefit from the many joint ventures between Indian and foreign companies.

Mr. Rao's reforms have scored impressive achievements: Exports are growing by 27 per cent annually, industrial output is up more than eight per cent, and inflation has been reduced to single digits. After mortgaging its gold in 1991 to stave off bankruptcy, India now has

foreign currency reserves of more than \$20 billion.

## Moscow will help ease Russian bank crisis

MOSCOW (R) — First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais promised Friday to help ease a credit crunch,

loaning Russian banks money so they can pay their bills and pumping funds into a cash-starved economy by buying securities.

Officials said the crisis, which paralysed the money market and left banks afraid to part with cash, could force some of Russia's 3,000 banks to merge or close. But there was no reason to panic, presidential aide Alexander Livshits said.

"The crisis has been localised, it is likely to remain so for some time and then be extinguished," Mr. Livshits told Interfax news agency.

Russian bankers welcomed the government's promise to step in to help troubled banks, although no details of any bailout scheme have yet emerged.

"Since every banking crisis in Russia is a crisis of confidence and a chain reaction, I think the central bank should bail out larger institutions with credits," said one senior banker.

"But it should not go beyond that."

He said some banks were very vulnerable to turmoil in the money market because up to 50 per cent of their balances were parked in the

interbank market.

"This is indicative of a systemic crisis and it reveals structural problems," he said. "We will see mergers among some of Russia's bigger banks but not for a while. This is not going to play out easily. The crisis is unprecedented in Russia."

Officials said the crisis, which paralysed the money market and left banks afraid to part with cash, could force some of Russia's 3,000 banks to merge or close. But there was no reason to panic, presidential aide Alexander Livshits said.

"The economy needs more money for payments," he said by telephone. "They have tried to cut inflation too fast. It is like stopping a car — if you brake too fast, it leaves the road."

He added: "If the central bank and the government distance themselves from this problem it will become a big one."

Tight monetary policies brought Russian inflation down to 5.6 per cent in July, from around 18 per cent in January.

The central bank has re-

ported earlier that gross fore-

ign currency reserves rose by \$144 million in July.

An Nahar quoted the central bank's first deputy governor, Nasser Saidi, as saying the bank had been intervening in the money market, selling dollars to shore up the lira.

But while he did not give any figures, he said: "Let's not forget that the situation in recent months was temporary and subject to political developments and circumstances."

That was a reference to political and economic tension triggered by labour unrest in July and threats of strikes next month.

Since Mr. Hariri took office in October 1992, foreign currency reserves have surged from several hundred thousand dollars to nearly \$4 billion.

The emergence of Mr. Hariri and his ambitious multi-billion dollar plan to rebuild Lebanon from the devastation of the 1975-90 civil war has restored confidence in the battered economy.

He is also credited with stabilising the Lebanese lira, which was pegged at about 3,000 to the U.S. dollar shortly before he assumed office. It has been improving daily, selling this week at about 1,614 liras to the dollar.

But that improvement, which occurred despite worsening economic conditions and continued political wrangling, came at the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars in central bank intervention.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson,  
Astrologer, Carroll Righter  
Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You can impress one in power in the morning with your abilities, but don't rest on your laurels. Be more encouraging to the ideas and suggestions of others.

**Taurus:** (April 20 to May 20) Use your intuition which is accurate now in handling financial affairs. Think along optimistic lines and be logical in any direction.

**Gemini:** (May 21 to June 21) Your intuition is working fine early in the day, but don't trust it later on. Don't take any risks dealing with others in business.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Make plans to have more abundance in your future. The planets are most favourable today for getting ahead in career matters you are involved in.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Be sure to complete any tasks left undone before taking on any new projects today. Don't discuss important business matters with experts unless you're positive they're qualified.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Plan early for whatever you want to do and then carry through intelligently. This can be a particularly fine day for you in any project you're involved in.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Take time to put your business affairs in better order. Await a better time for looking into new outlets and use care while you are in motion.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Support persons who have been loyal to you in the past. Show increased devotion to a loved one today. Plan for the future in your personal life.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Study your money situation today and make plans to have more financial security. Strive to be more efficient at work and success will appear.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have confidence with higher ups early and gain their support and goodwill. Take time to improve your appearance and the way others see you.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Obtain the information you need from the right sources today. A financial expert can give advice for which will help others too.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You may want to join with friends for a good time but don't forget to handle a prior commitment that requires your immediate attention. Then relax later.

## THE Daily Crossword

by Gerald R. Ferguson

ACROSS

1 Duvaller or Hemingway  
5 Made one's way  
10 George or Artie  
14 Panache  
15 Actress Graff  
16 Tennille of song  
17 Milan money  
18 Asiatic lemur  
19 Racing's Luyendyk  
20 Comic strip scream  
21 James Bond film  
23 Ground, as leath  
25 Like some oats  
26 Suffer  
27 Tanned leather  
29 Prospero's play  
33 Desert robe  
36 "The — Auld Lang Syne" (Whitney)  
37 Reply: abbr.  
38 Cockfost  
40 Debussy's "La —"  
41 Atmospheric condition  
43 Champion of dancing  
45 Promise to pay  
46 Agree to  
49 Appropriated  
53 Twister harbinger  
56 "Norma"—  
57 Borodin's prince  
58 City on the Loire  
59 Ms. enc.  
60 Be important  
61 Upper crust  
62 — and terminer  
63 Ax summers  
64 Bonheur and Ponselle  
65 Bili or Capri

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60 Be important  
61 Upper crust  
62 — and terminer  
63 Ax summers  
64 Bonheur and Ponselle  
65 Bili or Capri

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6 One way to read  
7 Bruce of films  
8 Arthurian lady  
9 Mormon area  
10 Groom's domain  
11 Of sixty minutes  
12 Like an old woman  
13 Brandish  
21 Ganef  
22 Linear measure  
24 Japanese statesman  
27 Man of Madrid  
28 Obsolete acronym  
29 Hat  
30 Run  
31 Go astray  
32 Party spread  
33 From — Z  
34 Hooper  
35 Take steps  
38 "Weakness in — caress" (Holland)  
39 Factual  
41 Be affected by heat

42 Negative quantities  
43 Categories  
44 Literary form  
46 Blazing  
47 Xavier of music  
48 100-dollar bill

49 Major artery  
50 Radiographs  
51 Studio prop  
52 Inventor John abbr.  
53 San — Obispo  
59 Distant

CHARS CIST OVAL  
ROBOT ERINE DALE  
ALLOY COPE ELLA  
MEET ME IN ST LOUIS  
CARPET FED  
AGUA ODEA GUMBO  
SINGIN' IN THE RAIN  
TOTER MESASITE  
IMPOSE AREAS  
NAUGHTY MARIETTA  
CUTE HAUL DRAIN  
ANTE ELSE EDICT  
NAYS RUES RANKS

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Thursday's puzzle solved

THURSDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED

OKAY, BEFORE WE BEGIN, I'LL READ THE RULES...

GOOD! I LOVE THE RULES... ONCE YOU KNOW THE RULES, YOU CAN CHEAT...

WHAT I ALWAYS SAY IS YOU CAN'T REALLY CHEAT UNLESS YOU KNOW THE RULES...

THAT'S WHAT I ALWAYS SAY...

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# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1995 9

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## ROSCOPES

ST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1995

mas S. Person,  
Carnegie-Righetti  
Foundation

(March 21 to April 18)

can impress one if  
the morning vis-  
tories, but don't re-  
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your intuition will  
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affairs. Think along  
lines and be logic-  
irection.(May 17 to June 24)  
intuition is work-  
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it later on. Don't  
isks dealing withCHILDREN: June  
(21) Make plans to  
the abundance in your  
he planets are most  
today for genuine  
career matters you  
ved in.(July 22 to August 18)  
complete any tasks  
before taking on  
projects today.  
discuss important busi-ers with experts who  
are positive about it.

Dustour)

AN EXTRAORDIN-

ARY meeting of the General

Assembly of the Al Ahlia

Commercial Centres Com-

pany authorised a capital in-

crease by JD3 million to JD 8

million through floating

shares for private subscrip-

tion. The general manager of

the company explained the

reason for raising the capital

saying that fixed assets

amounted to JD 6.2 million,

accounting for 76.6 per cent

of total assets, meaning that

the capital of the company

was frozen in fixed assets

that does not generate any return

except for the increase in

value of fixed assets such as

the land and the building. He

noted that bank credits totalled

JD 3 million burdening the

company with JD 350,000 in

interest per year. As such,

the general manager pointed

out, the capital increase

would settle the balance of

JD 1.6 million being the re-

maining cost of the commer-

cial centre building, finance

the construction of the Abela

shopping mall at a cost of JD

1.65 million, finance the im-

port and distribution network

for JD 600,000 and cover the

accumulated deficit of JD

690,000. The company's

board of directors has

approved building a shopping

mall on the plot of land in

front of the Abela-Abela

superstore and has also

approved conducting studies

to build other projects similar

to the Abela-Abela at other

locations in the country. On

the financial side, Al Ahlia-

Abela supermarket recorded

JD 4.57 million in sales dur-

ing the period from May 10

1994 until Dec. 31, 1994 and

expects better results this

year. The company is now

focusing on cutting costs in

that drive has reduced its

workforce from 400 to 300

workers (Al Dustour + Al

Aswag).

THE TOURISM Invest-

ment Department at the So-

cial Security Corporation is

retendering its Azraq rest-

house for private investment

against an annual lease.

Offers will only be accepted

from tour companies or spe-

cialised hotel institutions un-

til Aug. 28, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

**Business  
Daily  
Beat**  
A review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic press

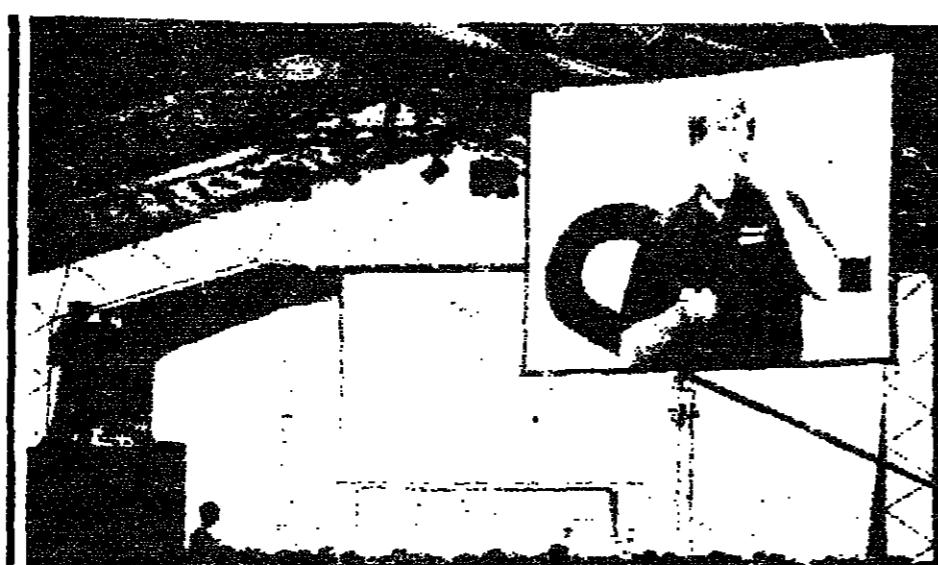
## Ministry to check on financial straits of municipalities

THE MINISTRY of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment will this week begin a comprehensive study of the financial conditions of all the municipalities in the Kingdom. According to the minister, Nader Thuherat, many committees were formed for this purpose. Based on the study, a working paper will be prepared to put clear and specific concepts and recommendations to improve the financial conditions of the municipalities. Mr. Thuherat pointed out that many large municipalities were facing financial difficulties as serious as not being able to pay the salaries of staff and workers at these municipalities. The minister stressed that the main path for those municipalities to get out of their financial straits was to opt for investment projects that would yield steady income and to curb spending and adopt belt-tightening measures. He said that the Cities and Villages Development Bank was ready to finance productive projects through long-term loan provided the projects prove to be economically feasible.

Meanwhile, a member of the Russeifa municipal council said the municipality was highly overstaffed and the new council was reluctant to begin its term by firing large number of workers. He noted that the number of staff was much higher than what the municipality can financially afford. The Russeifa official said the outgoing municipal council appointed 300 employees before the elections down to 110. (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour)

AN EXTRAORDINARY meeting of the General Assembly of the Al Ahlia Commercial Centres Company authorised a capital increase by JD3 million to JD 8 million through floating shares for private subscription. The general manager of the company explained the reason for raising the capital saying that fixed assets amounted to JD 6.2 million, accounting for 76.6 per cent of total assets, meaning that the capital of the company was frozen in fixed assets that does not generate any return except for the increase in value of fixed assets such as the land and the building. He noted that bank credits totalled JD 3 million burdening the company with JD 350,000 in interest per year. As such, the general manager pointed out, the capital increase would settle the balance of JD 1.6 million being the remaining cost of the commercial centre building, finance the construction of the Abela shopping mall at a cost of JD 1.65 million, finance the import and distribution network for JD 600,000 and cover the accumulated deficit of JD 690,000. The company's board of directors has approved building a shopping mall on the plot of land in front of the Abela-Abela superstore and has also approved conducting studies to build other projects similar to the Abela-Abela at other locations in the country. On the financial side, Al Ahlia-Abela supermarket recorded JD 4.57 million in sales during the period from May 10 1994 until Dec. 31, 1994 and expects better results this year. The company is now focusing on cutting costs in that drive has reduced its workforce from 400 to 300 workers (Al Dustour + Al Aswag).

THE TOURISM Investment Department at the Social Security Corporation is retendering its Azraq rest-house for private investment against an annual lease. Offers will only be accepted from tour companies or specialised hotel institutions until Aug. 28, 1995 (Al Ra'i).



An image of Microsoft Chairman William Gates is televised Thursday on a big screen as he introduces Windows 95 during the inaugural presentation of Microsoft's new operating system at the firm's Redmond, Washington, campus. The presentation, which included demonstrations of the software and a carnival, was attended by 500 journalists, 2,000 guests, and 9,000 Microsoft employees (AFP photo)

## Mircosoft's Gates promises new PC era with Windows 95

REDMOND, Washington (R) — In one of the biggest marketing blitzes ever, Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates Thursday officially unveiled Windows 95, saying the software would usher in a new era in personal computing.

Just last week, Microsoft agreed to alter some of its business practices in another antitrust settlement with the Justice Department.

But at Microsoft's sprawling "campus" headquarters in Redmond, Washington, antitrust woes were far from the minds of the 2,500 cheering guests who gathered under a huge tent for the world's biggest rock bands.

"For computer people, this is their woodstock," a woman in a Chicago coffee shop said.

But word of continuing federal antitrust probe cast a shadow over the product launch, one of the most expensive in history.

At a news conference in Washington, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno said the Justice Department was continuing to examine whether Microsoft's online computer network violates antitrust laws. Microsoft stock fell after the comments, dragging other high-technology stocks down with it.

Microsoft's Windows and Operating Systems control the computer desktop market with an 80 per cent market share, and the company has sold 100 million previous versions of Windows.

That dominance has raised cries of monopoly of rivals, notably those in the online service industry that are worried about Microsoft's entry.

Rivals such as America Online, Compuserve and Prodigy have argued that Microsoft's decision to "bundle" the Microsoft network software with its operating system gives it an unfair advantage.

The industry has launched

a \$500 million advertising campaign, with \$200 million from Microsoft, to persuade consumers to buy application software, computer memory, books and devices along with the 13 computer diskettes that make up Windows 95.

Windows 95 is one of the most widely anticipated products ever, ranking among classic Coke and the Apple Macintosh computer, experts said.

Kevin Strehlo, editor-in-chief of Datamation magazine, a trade magazine estimated as many as two million copies of Windows 95 were sold Thursday. Analysts expect Microsoft to sell as many as 30 million copies of Windows 95 before the end of the year.

Despite the hype, Microsoft's stock dropped \$1.75 to close at \$96.125 on the Nasdaq stock market. Earlier, it fell as low as \$95.50 after Ms. Reno reaffirmed the investigation.

Apple Computer Inc. and International Business Machines (IBM) Corp., which both offer competing operating systems, launched ad campaigns of their own denouncing Windows 95 as old, tired technology.

Apple's "truth campaign" includes a two-page newspaper ads debunking the touted features of Windows 95. It has offered a number of features for years in its Macintosh system that only now are appearing in Windows 95.

In stores across the country, managers reported heavy demand for the \$90 software programme that finally appeared after an eight-month delay. Windows 95 is expected to be the biggest selling new computer programme in history, generating billions of dollars in sales for the software giant.

The crowd roared.

In a more serious tone, Mr. Gates said the new product will make life easier for millions of users of the company's current generation of Windows software.

"This is a platform for new technology," Mr. Gates said. "It moves the PC industry to a whole new level."

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The industry has launched

## Uncertainties over Iraq could have strong impact on AFM this week

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices at the Amman stock exchange largely remained steady while turnover slipped this week, but the market is braced for what could be a serious drop this week related to uncertainties over Iraq, the Kingdom's major export market, brokers reported Friday.

The weekly AFM report said turnover for the week was JD 3.8 million compared with the previous week's JD 4.5 million dinars as speculators turned down emerging companies.

Prices slipped by about 0.3 per cent, as indicated by the official AFM index based on 60 major firms from

among the 120 listed in the market. The index closed for the week at 155.1 points, down 0.4 points (0.3 per cent) from Saturday's opening of 155.4 points.

Commercial banks and industries accounted for the bulk of the week's trading with a volume of JD 1.5 million and JD 1.49 million dinars respectively. The services sector rang up JD 810,000 dinars and insurance stocks 40,000 dinars, the AFM report showed.

Services stocks shed one per cent during the week, industrials 0.8 per cent, insurance 0.1 per cent and commercial banks 0.1 per cent.

AFM dealers, speaking on

condition of anonymity under standing market guidelines, described business during the week as normal and said the 15 per cent drop in turnover did not signify any specific

But, they warned that fears of a rift in ties with Iraq was going to have a strong impact on the market since Iraq is a major export market for many firms listed in the AFM.

"We were expecting a boost in prices next week as a result of the recent agreement on reduction of corporate income tax," said a broker, referring to a compromise between the government and the parliament's finance com-

mittee on amendments to the income tax law, and the general sales tax law.

The agreement meant that parliament would endorse an increase of three per cent in sales tax to seven per cent in return for the government accepting a series of income tax reductions that brings down corporate tax to 35 per cent from 50 per cent. Benefiting from the reductions will be hotels, hospitals, industries and mining firms.

"Any strain in ties between Jordan and Iraq will reflect immediately on business prospects and will wipe out all expected gains from the tax reductions," added the AFM broker.

## Cheap dollar brings overseas tourists flocking to U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

The cheap U.S. dollar has sent European and Japanese tourists flocking to the United States this year, but neighbouring Canadians and Mexicans are staying away because of weaker currencies, tourism experts say.

Windows 95 is one of the most widely anticipated products ever, ranking among classic Coke and the Apple Macintosh computer, experts said.

German media giant Bertelsmann A.G., a new competitor in the budding field, joined the critics and called Thursday for international antitrust action against the Microsoft network.

Just last week, Microsoft agreed to alter some of its business practices in another antitrust settlement with the Justice Department.

But word of

## Japan's Sugiyama upsets Martinez, Bradtke to reach semis

MAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — Ai Sugiyama of Japan advanced to the semifinals and Austrian Judith Wiesner and American Canada Rubin reached the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 Pathmark women's tennis tournament on Thursday.

Sugiyama, who upset top-seeded Conchita Martinez Wednesday night, rallied to beat Nicole Bradtke of Australia 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) Thursday afternoon.

"I felt that I might lose but I just kept going, running for everything and trying to cover the whole court," said the 19-year-old Sugiyama, who is ranked 63rd to Bradtke's 36. "She rallied to win from 2-4 deficits in each of the second and third sets."

Wiesner also was forced to three sets before putting away Lisa Raymond of the United States 6-2, 5-7, 7-5. The Austrian Fed Cup player is ranked 23rd, three places behind Raymond.

"I was finally able to close it out when I served with new balls in the last game," said Wiesner, who was broken on four previous attempts to serve out the match, twice in the second set and twice in the third.

Tatjana Jecmenica of Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, Monica Seles' hometown, pushed Rubin, ranked 16th in the world, to three sets before losing a 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 decision.

"I thought I played pretty good," said the 17-year-old Jecmenica. She only won the first and third sets on one break each time. The tournament was good practice for my first U.S. Open."

In the quarterfinals, fourth-ranked Jana Novotna



Conchita Martinez leans on her racket after missing a point (AFP photo)

of the Czech Republic will face 12th-seed Iva Majoli of Croatia and Rubin will meet

Marianne Werdel Witzmeyer in an all-American clash in day matches and seventh-seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria will play Wiesner at Night.

**Portugal's Supercup goes to 3rd match**

OPORTO, Portugal (R) — Portuguese champions Porto and Cup holders Sporting will have to meet again next month to decide the 1995 Supercup after battling to a second draw.

Porto took the lead twice before their home crowd but eventually had to settle for a 2-2 draw despite Sporting being reduced to 10 men for the last few minutes after goalkeeper Paule Costinha was sent off.

The two teams, who drew 0-0 at Sporting, will meet again on September 20 at a neutral ground when the cup will be decided on penalties if necessary.

Porto, without English manager Bobby Robson who is recovering in London from surgery, went ahead in the 18th minute when a shot striker Domingos Oliveira bounded off the right post into the back of Sporting's keeper Costinha and into the net.

Moroccan defender Nouredine Naybet equalised for Sporting in the 42nd minute.

Oliveira, who also scored twice in last Sunday's 2-1 win over Sporting in the opening round of the league, put Porto back in front with a 53rd minute penalty after Sporting's captain Oceano Cruz brought down Porto defender Jose Carlos.

In the 74th minute Sporting hit back again when newly-signed Ivorian striker Ahmad Quartara, in a superb solo effort, rounded Porto keeper Vitor Baia to slip the ball home.

In the 82nd minute, Sporting were reduced to 10 men when Costinha, who had not previously been cautioned, was sent off for a foul on Porto's Domingos following a corner.

Midfielder Oceano Cruz, took over in goal but only had to make one save from a long-range effort by Oliveira.

## World University Games

### Americans win four golds; Jacob becomes double gold medallist

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — Lisa Jacob became the World University Games first double gold medalist Friday, leading a 1-2 American finish in women's 200-metre freestyle swimming.

Americans won four of the day's six races, and their men's 4x200-metre relay quartet set one of the day's two games records.

P-Envelope Heyns of South Africa, a student at the University of Nebraska, broke a games record in qualifying and then won the women's 200-metre breaststroke at a somewhat slower pace.

"The U.S. crowd got me going," Mull said.

Heyns slashed more than three seconds off the games record, qualifying in 2:26.98. Tania Bogomilova of Bulgaria had set the old mark of

2:30.30 in 1985.

But in the final, she had to settle for 2:28.44, still well ahead of the 2:31.66 of silver medalist Nadine Neumann of Australia. Japan's Kyoko Kasuya was third in 2:31.85.

"This morning I was surprised to do so well so I'm a little disappointed tonight," said Heyns, the silver medalist at 200 metres and gold medalist at 100 metres in the Pan Pacific meet earlier this month. "I've been working on the 100," she added.

Pieper's winning 8:04.89 in the 800 was just short of the games mark of 8:04.80 set by Canada's Turlough O'Hare in 1993. Luiz Eduardo Lima of Brazil took silver in 8:06.01, with Japan's Hisato third in 8:07.82.

#### University games-briefs

\* Gymnastics proved to be the most popular sport with Fukuoka's spectators Thursday, the first full day of World University Games competition. Organisers said 8,527 people watched the men's team competition, which featured Vitali Scherbo of Belarus, a world champion in some specialties. Japan won the team gold medal.

At Kasuga Park Field, site of three soccer games including host Japan's 1-1 draw with Canada, 5,633 turned out.

Total attendance for all the day's events in eight sports was 40,895.

\* The U.S. tennis players recovered from a surprise — the court surface and advanced through their early University Games singles matches. The surface is artificial grass, with sand used to adjust the pace.

"The U.S. players were not expecting that kind of surface. It is much slicker than clay," said David Caldwell of North Carolina, who reached the third round with victories Thursday and Friday.

Caldwell beat Peter David of Slovakia 6-4, 6-1 and Luis Uribe of Mexico 4-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Paul Goldstein of Stanford also advanced, beating Mana Gintora of Sri Lanka 6-0, 6-1 and Nicholas Adams of Britain 6-4, 6-2.

In women's singles, Jane Chi of UCLA beat Nawal Jemmeh of Sudan 6-1, 6-0 and Olga Ivanova of Russia 6-3, 6-3 in her first two matches.

The top seeds also advanced easily. After first-round byes, men's No. 1 Lee Hyung-Taik of South Korea beat Singapore's Evan Woo 6-1, 6-0, and women's No. 1 Wang Shih-Ting of Taiwan, a regular on the pro tour, defeated Mexico's Yolanda Rodriguez 6-3, 6-0.

\* China's senior women's basketball team ranked No. 2 in the world, so Canada had "a bit of fear" going into its opening game at the University Games Thursday, said head coach Claire Mitton.

"But Canada came out a 91-61 winner and, said Mitton, "I'm thrilled."

Joy McNichol led the scoring with 30 points on 70 per cent shooting.

## Gazza hits it off with Cypriot "hooligans"

LARNACA (AFP) — Rangers star Paul Gascoigne bantered and drank beer with the leading "hooligans" of his Cypriot opponents Anorthosis after the Scots narrowly avoided embarrassment to reach the Champions League.

"My contract says I can only play 20 minutes a game," quipped Gazza who came off with a groin injury.

The England international refused to compliment the man of the match for the Cypriots, the diminutive Bulgarian midfielder Ilian Kiriakov, insisting on mispronouncing the name.

"He'd make a good seventh dwarf," the crop-headed star told two supporters described by the Cypriot club officials as ring-leaders of the hooligans, albeit reformed for the night.

Although he was been filmed by Scottish television during the 15-minute encounter outside the changing room Gascoigne refused to speak to journalists.

The fans meanwhile needed him on the astronomical fee Glasgow Rangers paid for his services.

"You're supposed to be worth millions and we paid just 40,000 (Cypriot pounds) for Kiriakov," said one.

Rangers held on for a goalless draw against Cypriots Anorthosis Famagousta in the Antonis Papadopoulos stadium to give themselves a 1-0 aggregate preliminary round win after Gordon Durie's first-led goal.

Now the big-spending Scottish champions are through to the lucrative group stages and that will be a huge relief to manager Walter Smith after a night of tension in Cyprus.

Smith was without the injured Brian Landrop and then lost 4-3 million pounds (\$6.41 million) club record buy Paul Gascoigne after 25 minutes with a groin injury.

They endured an intimidating atmosphere, an inconsistent Hungarian referee, Laszlo Wagner, and bad goal-keeper Andy Goram to thank for a couple of inspired saves.

The result clinched a place in the elite for the second time in four years for high rollers Rangers.

The club is now guaranteed revenue of 5-10 million pounds, depending on how Rangers fare in their six games against the likes of Blackburn, Ajax, Juventus, Real Madrid or Borussia Dortmund with the draw due on Friday.

Smith gave a debut to 15-million pound Serbian defender Gordan Petric, a summer buy from Dundee United. He was in a three-man defence with Richard Gough and Alan McLaren.

In midfield, Charlie Miller and Stuart McCall were alongside Gascoigne with Gordon Durie up front alongside Mark Hateley.

Anorthosis made only one change from the side which lost 1-0 in Glasgow and the Antonis Papadopoulos stadium was a throbbing theatre of expectancy pre-match with the ground looking well over its 9,500 capacity.

Rangers claimed a sixth-minute penalty when Miller tumbled under a challenge by Georgios Panayi but the Hungarian referee bottled out and penalised the Scot instead for diving.

Gascoigne departed after 25 minutes, signalling to the bench he had suffered what looked like a groin injury and he was a despondent figure as he went off to be replaced by Ian Durrant.

Andy Goram excelled himself with a 30th-minute save from the impressive Demetris Assiotis — although it was with his right boot.

Petric went close to a score-debut with a 35-yard free-kick which swerved wide of the post after taking a deflection.

Rangers had David Robertson booked shortly after the break but they continued to make two fine chances for teenager Miller.

Neither vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH

♦ KJ2

♦ K54

♦ KJ72

♦ KJ6

WEST

♦ Q53

♦ K93

♦ Q93

♦ QJ102

♦ Q93

EAST

♦ 10874

♦ QJ102

♦ Q53

SOUTH

♦ A86

♦ A873

♦ A54

♦ A94

ONE STEP AT A TIME

Opening lead: Queen of a

club

Tricks

and

stopper

So win in hand with the

ace

Next problem is how to handle

the diamonds

Do you cash the ace

and king as a safety play, or do you

take the acecesse? The answer is that

you do not know yet

The number of tricks you need in

diamonds depends on how many

trick diamond tricks are available.

nothing else matters until you reach

three no trump in quick time. West

leads the queen of clubs. Should

you hold up at trick one?

With two stoppers and a com-

bining six clubs in the hand, the

Rule of Seven says no, and there is

a more compelling reason here not

to even if the Rule said otherwise.

You cannot afford to lose a club

card

Therefore, before you tackle the

diamonds lead a spade to the jack.

When that wins, you need only

three tricks from the diamond suit.

The best way to do this is to cash

the king and ace

if the queen does not drop, lead a diamond toward the jack. That assures a

3-3 split if the queen is doubleton, or it

guards any number of times. Well

played.

## All eyes on Premier League's big money transfers

LONDON (AP) — The record big-money transfers of England's Premier League seem to be earning their keep.

Les Ferdinand and France's David Ginola have Newcastle unbeaten in Sunday's only Premier League encounter.

Newcastle paid Queens Park Rangers a 6-million-pound (\$9.2 million) transfer fee for Ferdinand.

Arsenal is humming along with its new stars David Platt and Dennis Bergkamp.

The start of the season has not been promising, however, for Liverpool's Stan Collymore.

Collymore, who came to the club in a British record 8.5-million-pound (\$13.1 million) deal from Nottingham Forest, limped off with an ankle injury in a 1-0 loss earlier this week to Leeds and may be out of action for a few games.

Leeds is casting on Tony Yeboah, a blooming superstar from Ghana who joined the club last season from Germany for 3.4 million pounds (\$5.2 million).

Yeboah and Ferdinand are both in the bank with three goals in two matches to top the scoring tables.

The quick spurt by Ferdinand and Yebo



# German minister ends visit today after successful talks

Bonn to offer DM 140 million every year for regional projects to benefit partners in peace

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — German Minister of Economic Cooperation Carl-Dieter Spranger ends a visit to Jordan on Saturday after talks with Jordanian leaders that were described as highly successful and positive.

The highlight of Mr. Spranger's four-day visit was his announcement that the German government was rechanneling 140 million marks (about JD 70 million) for regional projects in the Middle East to benefit the parties involved in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

The amount represents the aid that Germany used to give to Israel every year since 1966 as assistance to a developing country, but the Jewish state will no longer qualify for it since its per capita income is expected to rise over \$15,000 in 1995, Mr. Spranger told a press conference on Thursday.

The assistance, which will be endorsed in the federal government budget in November, will be available throughout 1996 for projects that would benefit all parties in the Middle East peace process. But it is unlikely that Syria and Lebanon could be among its immediate beneficiaries since they have yet to join the multilateral phase of the peace process where regional economic cooperation and joint projects are discussed.

It is too early to determine how much Jordan stood to benefit from the assistance, but given the advanced stage of blue prints for regional projects and presentations at the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held in Amman in October, it is a safe bet that the aid could be allocated in early 1996.

In response to a question on potential German investment in Jordan, the minister said as long as businessmen were assured of stability and security as well as liberal economic laws and returns, investments would be coming to Jordan and the region.

At the same time, he said in an implicit reference to violence against the Israeli-



Carl-Dieter Spranger

Palestinian peace negotiations, it was the responsibility of those in positions of influence and decision-making not to give any ground to those who are trying to wreck the peace process.

In a broader context, the minister paid tribute to the economic performance of Jordan and the Kingdom's success in reducing its foreign debts from more than \$8 billion in 1988 to \$5.6 billion in 1994 and in maintaining inflation around four per cent.

The economic policies followed by the Jordanian government has been very successful and as long as they continue (in the same path) there would be investments coming to the country, he said.

On Friday, Mr. Spranger visited Petra and stone conservation projects financed by the German government under way there.

He did not have any official meetings after his press conference on Thursday, the German embassy said.

The German minister began his current Middle East visit in Israel. He also met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza and visited German-funded

projects in Jericho. In Syria, he is expected to hold talks with President Hafez Al Assad and other Syrian leaders and also visit Aleppo, where Germany is funding several development projects.

The minister's visit to Jordan "was very successful, particularly for Jordan," said a German embassy spokeswoman, pointing out to the announcement of rechanneling of 140 million marks.

"It is too early to determine which projects will be identified for the assistance, but the aid falls in line with the German policy of helping the peace process through extending help to the parties involved and for projects that benefit all of them," added the spokeswoman.

In his press conference, Mr. Spranger reaffirmed Germany's commitment to helping Jordan and Israel execute projects stipulated in the Oct. 26 peace treaty signed by the two countries.

That was seen as a reference to a pledge made by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl during a visit to Jordan earlier this year that Germany, along with its fellow members of the European Union,

was ready to consider financing water projects included in the treaty after studies establish the feasibility of the projects.

Jordan represents the highest per capita recipient of German aid, which totalled two billion marks since the 1960s. German aid for Jordan for 1995 is 42 million marks (about JD 21 million). In addition, Germany contributes 28 per cent of the budget of the European Union, which has a separate aid programme for Jordan and other countries.



Israeli police stop a bus with right-wing activists against the Israeli-Palestinian self-rule accord from entering the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway on Thursday (AFP photo)

## Israel, PLO report major progress in self-rule talks

### Soldiers kill 2 Palestinians in Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Major progress has been made in the latest round of negotiations to extend autonomy across the West Bank, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) announced, Friday, but obstacles remain in a full agreement.

The spread of autonomy involves army redeployment outside Palestinian areas of the West Bank, transfer of civilian powers and elections to an autonomy council and is already 13 months behind schedule.

"Important progress was made in the sphere of telecommunications and water," the two sides said in a joint statement after talks this week in the Red Sea resort of Eilat.

"Substantial progress" was made on redeployment and security.

"Although in the important issue of Hebron no progress has been reached," the statement said.

Israel is nearly to withdraw gradually from all West Bank towns apart from Hebron where it wants to retain control to protect 400 settlers living among 120,000 Palestinians.

"In next week's agenda the two delegations will discuss... Hebron and the release of the Palestinian prisoners, as well as... security and civilian issues," said delegation chiefs Ahmed Korei of the Palestinian Authority and Israel's Uri Savir in the statement.

"A lot of work is still in front of us," Korei, the economy minister, told AFP, but added, "We hope next week we'll solve all these problems."

"We hope to sign the (overall) agreement next month."

The transfer of powers involves 40 spheres and the two

sides said they have now reached agreement over about 25 spheres, but did not specify.

The PLO agreed Thursday to set aside the key issue of water sharing with Israel until final negotiations next year, so clearing one of the major hurdles to a full accord to spread self-rule, officials said.

In return, Israel reorganized Palestinian rights to water sources on the West Bank, Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tsar said.

Meanwhile Israeli forces killed two Hamas militants in a gunfight after they trapped them in a house in the West Bank town of Hebron on Friday, Palestinians and the Israeli army said.

There was an exchange of gunfire between the militants and troops. Hundreds of soldiers took up positions on rooftops in the area. Security sources said a curfew was imposed on Hebron.

Soldiers ordered Mr. Sultan back into the house when the shooting stopped.

"By my hand I took the bodies out of my home, then they demolished the house," Mr. Sultan, who denied he knew the dead guerrillas, told Reuters.

After troops removed the bodies from the site, journalists were allowed to approach the building. Blood and bits of brain could be seen at the entrance. Later bulldozers moved in and knocked down the house, in the process churning up about a third of a hectare of land planted with trees.

Israeli troops hunting guerrillas routinely use bulldozers and even rockets to destroy buildings in which they believe wanted Palestinians are hiding.

Hamas said Friday its master bomb-maker Yahya Ayyash, who is sought by Israel and the Palestinian Authority, was outside the Gaza Strip.

"Everybody should rest assured that Yahya Ayyash is not at present in Gaza at all," Hamas said in a statement.

## Peacekeepers' exit leaves Gorazde's fate hanging

SARAJEVO (R) — Only a few hours after Bosnian army "renegades" attacked their base, British U.N. soldiers began a long-scheduled withdrawal from the enclave of Gorazde, leaving the long-term future of the Muslim pocket in doubt.

United Nations officials said the attack on the British would make it harder to recruit a group of about 20 unarmed U.N. military observers (UNMOS) who are scheduled to remain in the Bosnian government-held pocket enclave once the British left.

This (residual force) is entirely dependent upon troop contributing nations coming forward to constitute an UNMO team," said U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vernon.

"In light of what happened last night, clearly a far greater disengagement has been put in their way to achieve that."

Soldiers wearing Bosnian army uniforms attacked the British base overnight in a possible bid to seize weapons. Two Bosnian soldiers died when the British fought back without casualties.

Col. Vernon said the British commander in Gorazde, Lieutenant-Colonel John Riley, assessed the attack as the work of uncontrolled elements of the Bosnian army who "probably did not have Bosnian army authorisation at a high level."

The defector said the decision to invade Kuwait and torch its oil wells at the end of the Iraqi occupation in 1991

Gorazde is a U.N.-designated "safe area" in eastern Bosnia where about 65,000 Muslims are surrounded by Serb forces.

About 90 Ukrainian, 170 British and 10 Norwegian peacekeepers were based in the enclave to deter Serb attacks.

All but two Ukrainians left on Wednesday and the first 80 British troops left on Friday. The three convoys with up to 70 troops and vehicles had crossed into Serbia in the early afternoon, heading for the Croatian cities of Zagreb and Split via Belgrade, the United Nations said.

Issues ranging from mundane disputes over fees for damaged property to gut concerns over the future of the enclave clouded the peacekeepers' departure.

U.N. officials said government troops demanded 20,000 German marks (\$13,500) from the Ukrainians and a similar amount from the British in fees for damage to property.

But the money was a side issue beside the fear that the U.N. pullout, coming only weeks after Serb troops barged past U.N. peacekeepers to seize the neighbouring "safe areas" of Srebrenica and Zepa, Britain's determination to pull out its forces, and the lack of a country willing to offer troops has dictated a major policy change.

"The method by which Gorazde will be protected is by extensive use of NATO air power in a completely different concept than has hitherto been the case," Col. Vernon said. "The main onus of the new air planning is to hit wide, hard, extensively and non-proportionately into very deep zones of action."

But the new policy relies on the presence of about 20 UNMOS, supplemented by a few tactical air controllers equipped to call in NATO air strikes against the Serbs.

Four UNMOS are in Gorazde at the moment, as are an undisclosed number of air controllers, but the rest of the residual force has yet to be determined let alone deployed.

The international commitment to protect Gorazde has also been undermined by persistent rumours that a new American peace initiative involves the government surrendering the enclave to the Serbs in exchange for territory around Sarajevo.

Both Sarajevo and Washington deny this, but analysts question how peace can be achieved if an island of

Muslim territory survives in a sea of Serb-held, ethnically cleansed, eastern Bosnia.

Comments on the peace process by Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohammad Sacirbey reported in the Washington Post on Friday do little to reassure Gorazde.

"This is a slow process of trying to address Bosnia with dignity. That's where we are. It's up to us to make the best of it," he said.

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## COLUMN

Hagman awake, recovering after liver transplant

LOS ANGELES (AP) — U.S. actor Larry Hagman was fully awake a day after receiving a new liver in a 15-hour operation. "He had a smile on his face and was the Larry Hagman we know," Dr. Leonard Makowka, director of the liver transplant programme at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, said. The former Dallas star was still listed in critical condition but had shown no complications from the surgery and his new liver was working, Dr. Makowka and hospital spokesman Ron Wise said. Mr. Wise said the critical condition listing is typical for patients undergoing such an operation. Hagman, 63, who played J.R. Ewing on the hit nighttime soap Dallas, had advanced cirrhosis of the liver, which he blamed on years of heavy drinking. He was placed on a national waiting list on July 19 after a malignant tumour was found on his liver.

**U.K. papers vow to leave Prince William alone**

LONDON (R) — Editors of Britain's sensation-loving tabloid newspapers promised to heed an official warning and leave Prince William alone when he starts at one of Britain's most exclusive schools next month. The newspapers made their vows after the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, Lord Wakeham, told them the 13-year-old future king was not a football star or a famous actor and should be allowed to grow up without the constant intrusion of reporters and photographers.

There was an exchange of gunfire between the militants and troops. Hundreds of soldiers took up positions on rooftops in the area. Security sources said a curfew was imposed on Hebron.

Soldiers ordered Mr. Sultan back into the house when the shooting stopped.

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"Everybody should rest assured that Yahya Ayyash is not at present in Gaza at all," Hamas said in a statement.

**Wanted Filipino actor surrenders to police**

MANILA (R) — Fugitive Filipino actor Robin Padilla surrendered to police Friday after eluding arrest for nearly a month and said he was ready to start his 21-year jail term on gun-possession charges. "I'm ready," Padilla, who became famous portraying disturbed tough guys with golden hearts in his film roles, told reporters. Tears filled his eyes. The actor was convicted of illegal possession of firearms by a court in Angeles City north of Manila last year and his appeals had been rejected.

**Only half of China's women decide whom they marry**

BELING (R) — Fewer than half of China's women have complete say in who they marry, a survey published in China's major newspapers Friday said. The survey, conducted by the state China Central Television Co. in May, showed 47.6 per cent of female respondents had the power to decide entirely who they marry, the newspapers said. For centuries, China's women had no say in their marriages. Parents and matchmakers decided the fate of women often without them seeing their future grooms on the basis of family alliances, wealth and status. The survey showed that 31.5 per cent of today's women consult their parents on whom they plan to marry.

**to hold Majlis elections in March**

IRAN (R) — Iran will begin voting for its 27th Majlis or Parliament elections, a senior official announced Saturday.

Iranian monitors reported in the capital Tehran that candidates will begin casting their votes from all over the country on March 26. The election will be held in two rounds, with the second round taking place on April 10.

Iranian election officials said that candidates from all political parties are permitted to run, and independent groups or factions with eligible candidates will be allowed to register.

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israeli bid thre